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THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER

WITH ALL THE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

No. 9.] LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1861. [Vol. I.

THE CAPTURE OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS ON BOARD THE TRENT.—MISS SLIDELL INTERPOSING TO PROTECT HER FATHER.—SEE PAGE 135.

Topics of the Week.

In the presence of so grave an event as the arrest of the Confederate Commissioners, all domestic incidents, such as the melancholy accident at Edinburgh (described in another place), sink into comparative insignificance. We are now at last compelled to look the whole question of war in the face; and that we may do so rightly it is indispensable that we do it calmly and with an honest determination to know the whole truth. With characteristic skill and audacity, certain of the cotton-merchants of Liverpool required only "ten minutes" to get up a meeting which should at once initiate a national demand for war; and the same newspapers that record this most significant incident let us into the secret motives by the parallel record of the fact that the Liverpool cotton market was thrown the same afternoon into a state of the greatest agitation in connection with the idea that now at last *the blockade would be broken*. The people of Great Britain show their love of country in a different fashion. Excited as they ought to be by the first reports of a "great outrage upon the national flag," they have waited patiently the action of the Government and the authorised promulgation of the true bearings of international law. Unhappily, it is no part of our system of diplomacy to give this most valuable aid to public opinion. Even now that the law officers have spoken, no one knows exactly what they have said; and a most serious consequence is that all those writers who have from the first taken up a position of hostility against the Northern Government are able to pursue their unscrupulous policy of urging or withdrawing charges just as the impulse or currents of the hour may dictate. But in spite of this difficulty one truth oozes out, and it is a most important one, that, in the opinion of our learned men, the case against the Americans resolves itself finally into this, not that they arrested the Commissioners, but that they, as it were, adjudicated upon the arrest in the mere persons of the armed men concerned in the caption, instead of taking the vessel to an American port, and submitting it to the decision of an Admiralty Court, which *might* have decided that the captors were liable to damages for an illegal arrest. So that the protest of Captain Moir, and the epithet "piracy" of the Captain who had charge of her Majesty's mails, merely show that they knew nothing whatever of the international law of their own country, or their duty to other countries, or, worse still, that, knowing it, they had not only violated it, by allowing men who ostentatiously acknowledged their belligerent position as Commissioners of the Southern States to come on board, but who also attacked the servants of the Power who was thus far wronged for daring to do their duty when they appeared stopping the Trent's way on the high seas. Too little attention has been paid to the conduct of these gentlemen, who, we find from other particulars, were surrounded by men of Southern sympathies, and men employed in Southern operations. So far, then, as the stopping the Trent was concerned, we have it now on the highest authority that there not only was no "outrage" in the act, but that we cannot even blame the Americans for doing it without far more severely blaming ourselves, for it appears that such was our own policy and practice through all recent wars. What we now say against them amounts to this—that, regardless of the loss to the owners of the ship, regardless of the delay of the mails, and regardless of the convenience of innocent passengers, the Captain of the San Jacinto should have taken ship, crew, and cargo to New York, and there have had the question adjudicated upon legally. Well, we do not doubt this is the right view. It *is* a grave question that mere officers of the Navy should be able to decide upon such momentary operations. But is it possible that England and America can fight on such a question as this? Look how it is treated in the columns of the daily and weekly press. They all teem with different and contradictory opinions upon almost every point of the international law that is invoked. Are we to fight to clear up such difficulties? We will not believe it. If the Americans show by their conduct now that they intended to insult or outrage us for any ulterior purposes, there can be no doubt England will fight in such a quarrel to her last shilling and her last man that can be made available for warlike purposes. But if the Americans did really believe they were doing only what they were entitled to do, then, *even if they were wrong*, we cannot fight them for an error of judgment; it would be a national crime to do so; it would show that all our professions about war and peace were hypocritical, and that we remained as determined as ever to do simply our own will when we got into a dispute. All, therefore, turns on the spirit and conduct of the two Governments. If ours be right in their legal view, the American Government *must* make fitting reparation. On the other hand, if the American Government shows its willingness to discuss the matter temperately, and with a disposition to redress any wrongs that it may have unintentionally performed, then our Government is bound to treat in a similar spirit, and be guided by what is practicable and wise rather than by a mere formal routine adherence to the strict letter of what we conceive to be our rights. The latest news from America seems to show that the people of that country generally approve of the act with just the same unanimity that the people of this country disapprove of it, and precisely from the same cause—a general sense of nationality and patriotism. And there lies the difficulty now to be surmounted. But there, too, lies the reason why all good and honest men should exert themselves for peace. Will war surmount it? Never. It would only embitter each people uselessly against the other while settling nothing, and for the most painfully illogical of reasons, precisely because they are so like each other in spirit, courage, and resources. But the thoughtful men of America do, it appears, already see that there has been an irregularity, if nothing more. Some of the papers of New York do not hesitate to say so. Above all—and this is a highly important feature of the transaction—the arrest itself was not by order of Government, but was simply the individual act of the Captain of the San Jacinto. We think, then, the probability is that Mr. Lincoln's Government will be willing to do anything short of giving up the Commissioners, who are men even of greater importance than we imagined, as being the prime authors of the Southern conspiracy and revolt. But can England be content with anything less? We think she can, if that less involve full security for the future. America must attempt no more such high-handed exercise of her presumed rights; and if that implies, as undoubtedly it does, that England must at once reverse its whole former policy with regard to neutrals, so much the better for legality, justice, and the comity of nations. If we decline allowing the arrest of such dangerous men as these in our ships, can we have the hardihood to assert the right of arresting mere runaway seamen in American hips, as we did during the wars with France?

The truth seems to be that both Governments are alike put in the wrong as to their past policies by this extraordinary event. The English, who have always exercised the right of search in the most unscrupulous fashion, are now impelled to blame it; while the Americans, who have always quarrelled with the right, are now constrained to enforce it. What, then, is the rational conclusion but that both should come to a better understanding for the future, based, not on mutual selfishness, but on mutual benefit?

Since the foregoing was written a most important letter has appeared from America, and will be found in our columns. If the writer does not misstate facts the American Government have ready in their hands to present to the English Government the exact counterpart of the case of the Trent. According to the case adduced by Mr. Sumner (who is not the senator of that name) it appears that during thewar of the Revolution the Americans, who were then to us what now the Confederates are to the United States, wished to send a Minister to Holland (a neutral Power, for precisely the same objects that Mason and Slidell were dispatched to England (also a neutral Power), that is, to obtain recognition of their independence, and whatever else, of course, they could obtain calculated to benefit their cause. He, like the Confederate Commissioners, had great difficulty to reach his destination, but at last a Dutch packet took him, as an English packet took them. He, like them, was captured with all the results of a violation of the flag of a neutral vessel; and he, like them, must have been subject, or, like them, not subject, to the necessary jurisdiction of the Admiralty. He was taken to an English port, as they were taken to an American port, and there the English Admiral did not hand the matter over to a Court of Admiralty, but sent the vessel to England. He was not in England afforded the opportunity of appealing to such a court, but treated exactly as Mason and Slidell have been,—sent to prison on a charge of treason, but eventually freed—as the Confederates probably also will be—by an exchange. Holland made no war against us for the outrage on her flag; and, if all these facts be true, it will be difficult to understand how we are to make war against America, if she has indeed such a case against us. At present we find it hard to believe that our Ministers have committed themselves to their course without the certainty that there is no such precedent as this on record.

Two other dangers, however, increase the larger one of the incident itself—the ceaseless provocation given by certain writers on both sides the Atlantic, who desire to break the blockade and save the Southern men from impending ruin; and, secondly, the burning of the Harvey Birch. We much fear that when the news of that wanton act of destruction reaches New York the whole tone and temper of the people will change towards us.

But, whatever may be the issue, those men must be blind indeed who think it possible that England can ever become the ally of Southern slaveowners, or who think that war between England and America will reopen the cotton trade. It will most likely be the signal of its being closed for ever. The blockade will be broken, doubtless; but where will be the cotton, where the men who should bring it to the ports, where the men who want to sell it, if the Federal Government proclaims a sweeping abolition of slavery, and offers to arm all fugitives who can reach any one of the numerous expeditionary forces? Yet can any sane man doubt that the Federal Government will do this if driven to the awful responsibility of a war with England and the South at the same time? Let us make up our mind clearly to consequences. The end of such a war would probably be the utter destruction of the American war navy and the ruin of her great seaports through the invincible power of our fleets; on the other hand, we should probably lose Canada, into which hundreds of thousands of men could be poured, and we should suffer to an extent dreadful to contemplate in our commerce, as the American privateers, armed with the best guns, would swarm in every sea. Lastly, the South would be rent to pieces by the slavery explosion, and the cotton question settled for ever, leaving both England and the United States as *comparatively* strong as at the beginning, but internally weak and exhausted, with fresh burdens of taxation, and hating each other as blood relations only can.

General Scott on the American Difficulty.—The United States' Consul has communicated to the French papers a letter of General Scott, in which he declares there is no truth in the report that the Cabinet of Washington had ordered the seizure of the Southern Commissioners, even if under the protection of a neutral flag. He is quite ignorant of the decision of his Government, but he says it is necessary to preserve good relations between America and England. "I hope," continues General Scott, "that Earl Russell and Mr. Seward will agree on a solution to the question whether the persons who were arrested on board the Trent were contraband of war or not. If they were agents of the rebels it will be difficult to convince even impartial minds that they were less contraband of war than rebel soldiers or cannons." In conclusion, General Scott expresses his conviction that a war between America and England cannot take place without more serious provocations than those at present given.

Gossip.

The municipal authorities of Vienna have voted a sum of 10,000 florins to enable a number of intelligent artisans of limited means to visit the International Exhibition.

In the last accounts from California it is stated that the amount of silver now produced in that State is estimated at £1,200,000 per annum.

At the theatre of Nice, a few nights back, a curious incident occurred. In the performance of "La Cenerentola" one of the actresses, Mdlle. Mistrali Vetant, having gone too near the footlights, set fire to her dress, when Ronconi, who was singing by her side as Don Magnifico, extinguished the flames by pressing the dress between his hands. In so doing he did not interrupt for a moment his singing, and the actress, on her part, deriving confidence from his remarkable calmness went on with the performance as if nothing had happened. The audience was so pleased with the self-possession displayed by Ronconi that they summoned him three times before the curtain with loud applause.

A large number of MS. letters and orders of Frederick the Great have been discovered near Breslau, of which the originality cannot be doubted. The letters are dated from 1740 to the middle of the year 1750, are written apparently by private secretaries, and signed by Frederick. They are said to throw new light on the history of the period.

We hear that Mdme. Mario (Jessie Meriton White) is on her way from Italy to England for the purpose of delivering a series of lectures in England and Scotland on Italian affairs, under the auspices of the Garibaldi Italian Unity Committee.

One of the writers of the *El Pueblo* (Madrid) has been condemned to twenty-six months' banishment, 5000 reals' fine, the cost of the prosecution, and the deprivation of political rights, for having published in that journal a poetical satire on the Minister of Grace and Justice.

Home News.

THE CAPTURE OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS.—Mr. Seymour, the Queen's messenger to America, was on board the Europa, which left Queenstown on Monday night for the United States. The message which this gentleman carried was the most important which has left these shores for months past. It was the product of the meeting of the Cabinet Council which was held at Windsor on Saturday last, and the reports of our contemporaries are probably correct when they say it contains a demand on the American Government for the restitution of the passengers seized on board the Trent, together with an apology for what is denominated an illegal seizure. The question of the rights of belligerents at sea has now become the question of the hour, and, appropriately enough, Messrs. Cobden and Horsfall have suggested to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce the necessity of thoroughly discussing the subject before the meeting of Parliament. Our Government are preparing for every emergency. The Warrior is to be put, with all dispatch, in fighting trim; the exportation or carriage coastwise of grunpowder, saltpetre, nitrate of soda, and brimstone are prohibited; ships have been "taken up" as transports to Canada; Armstrong guns, Enfield rifles, ammunition, and warm clothing are being shipped at Woolwich. Another little incident is to be recorded. The Tyne and other naval reserve seamen have followed the example of their brothers of the port of London, and have volunteered for service. So the completeness of our preparation for war is not to be doubted; and that it may never be called into active operation is a wish to which every lover of his fellow-men will cordially respond.

MR. J. MELLOR, Q.C., M.P. for Nottingham, and Recorder of Leicester, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to the seat on the Bench vacant by the resignation of Mr Justice Hill.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW is said to be fully up to the mark. Mr. Taylor's first prize gold medal steer is thus described:—"In form this animal is almost theoretically perfect—a barrel that you might estimate by the tape for weight with a likelihood of correctness; a faultless back, rib, and chine, a girth of 8ft. 8in., a good round, fine bone, beautiful quality of flesh, a kindly light roan coat, and handsome head. Distinguished as the best shorthorn and best male animal in the cattle classes, it has nevertheless failed to win the *summum honorarium* of the innkeepers' plate, which singles out the best animal, irrespective even of sex. It is understood that great pains were bestowed in the adjudication; and we cannot say whether the somewhat long and down-curved horns disagreed with the fancy of the judges, or whether it was an act of gallantry on their part to hand over the silver to a lady,—namely, a stately, well-bred, daintily-fattened, and unexceptionable polled black Scotch cow of Mr. M'Combie. A Scotch breed carrying off the gold medal as best of the sex in the hall, much more topping the show of males and females together, is a rare, perhaps unexampled, triumph at English fat-stock shows. The present cow is certainly wonderful for a galloway,—back level, girth 8ft. 7in., legs short, quality prime, but nearly five years old." The sheep are a prime show, and, though the fault of unfairness in clipping is not so glaring as on previous occasions, much yet remains to be done before we see sheep as they ought to be. The "dogs" form the most striking feature. There is "an unparalleled collection" of pointers, setters, retrievers, and spaniels, and altogether 530 dogs of every degree.

A POLICEMEN'S CONCERT.—On Thursday week the annual concert of the E division took place at the Music Hall, Store-street, on which occasion there was a very full attendance, and a most interesting and well-selected programme put forth. The band executed several pieces in a manner that drew forth the warm approbation of the visitors. The vocalists were Miss Eliza Ryecroft, Miss Schofield, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Mason, and Stevens's Glee Union. There were several encores, and all seemed much delighted with the entertainment. The arrangements were conducted by Inspector Pierce, and the duties of the police were not in the least interfered with.

THE FUNERAL OF SERGEANT DIXON, of the 78th Highlanders, who was murdered by a private of the same regiment, took place at Aldershott on Wednesday week. The funeral was not only remarkable in consequence of the melancholy circumstances attached to it, but also for the imposing nature of the ceremony. Nearly all the sergeants stationed in the camp were present, together with a great number of the officers. The clergyman who officiated addressed the assembly in a very touching manner.

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT AMONGST RAILWAY EMPLOYES.—On Sunday morning the first of a series of novel and interesting "Breakfast Meetings" amongst employés of every trade in the service of the London and North-western Railway Company took place at Euston station, the object being to induce them to listen to addresses from persons of celebrity, with a view to inculcate religious and moral feelings amongst them. Mr. David Stevenson, the goods manager of the London division of the railway, occupied the chair, and at half-past eight nearly 400 of the employés sat down to an excellent breakfast. Mr. J. B. Smithies first addressed the meeting, enforcing the necessity of temperance as the stepping-stone to all moral and social advancement, in whatever station of life a man might be placed, but more especially amongst those to whose care in the management and carrying out the details of a railway the lives of thousands of their fellow-creatures were intrusted. The Rev. Canon Champneys took up the religious part of the subject, and dwelt upon it in appropriate terms. Mr. Joseph Payne and the Rev. Hugh Owen having also addressed the meeting, a hymn was sung, and the proceedings closed, as they were opened, with prayer.

SYMPATHY WITH POLAND.—A numerously-attended meeting on the Polish question was held at the Whittington Club yesterday week. Able speeches were delivered by Mr. Harvey Lewis, M.P., Mr. Coningham, M.P., Mr. Edmond Beales, Mr. Slack, and other gentlemen. Resolutions were passed setting forth the gross injustice of which Poland is the victim, and calling upon the Government to suspend all payments on account of the Russo-Dutch Loan until Russia fulfils the engagements she incurred by the Treaty of Vienna. A petition founded upon these resolutions but entering into the question at considerable length, was also adopted. The meeting displayed great enthusiasm on behalf of the Polish cause.

MR. BRIGHT was entertained at dinner by his fellow-townsmen, at the Rochdale Public Hall, on Wednesday evening. There were about 250 gentlemen present, among whom were Mr. Baxley, M.P., Mr. George Wilson, and the Mayor of Manchester. The galleries were occupied by ladies. "The health of Mr. Bright" was received with great enthusiasm. His speech, in reply, after a brief acknowledgment of their kindness to himself, was entirely devoted to the subject of the war in America.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE LATE LORD HERBERT.—A very influential and numerously-attended meeting was held at Willis's Rooms on Thursday week to promote the erection of an appropriate memorial to the late Lord Herbert. The Duke of Cambridge presided. A resolution expressing a sense of the loss which the country had sustained by the untimely death of Lord Herbert was moved by Lord Palmerston. Mr. Gladstone moved the next resolution, declaring that a subscription should be raised or erecting a statue of the deceased, and also for the endowment of exhibitions of gold medals in connection with the army medical school at Chatham. The Bishop of Oxford moved the appointment of a committee to carry out the objects of the meeting. Among the other speakers were the Duke of Newcastle and Sir John Burgoyne.

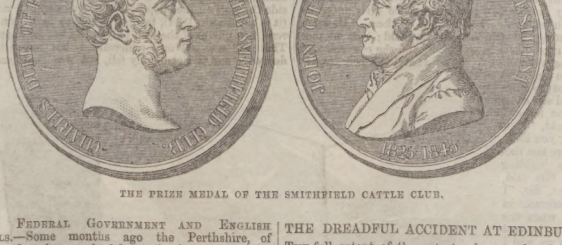
THE RIGHT HON. MR. COWPER, M.P., attended a meeting at Hertford on Monday to distribute the prizes offered by the Society of Arts at a local examination. The right hon. gentleman dwelt at some length on the value of self-education, for which many young men in England were so honourably distinguished, especially when tested by such examinations and stimulated by such prizes as those offered by the society which had that day called them together.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—The works connected with the building for the exhibition are being vigorously pushed forward. The domes, of course, still form the most important feature of the works, and give rise to the greatest amount of apprehension; but there is no doubt that they will be completed in sufficient time to prevent any inconvenience to the progress of the exhibition. The important question of the supply of refreshments has at length been settled. The successful competitors are—Mr. F. E. Morrish, of Liverpool, and Mr. W. Sanders, late of the Great Western Hotel, for the western division; and M. Veillard, of 59, Mark-lane, and M. Martin, of Paris, for the eastern block.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. J. R. Mills has addressed numerous meetings of the Finsbury electors during the week, and has met with a very cordial reception. Among the articles of his political creed he enumerated a six-pound rental franchise, vote by ballot, and the abolition of church rates. He made an incidental allusion to the American difficulty, expressing the hope that peace between the two countries would be maintained. Mr. Cox, once a member for the borough, has also addressed several meetings. Like Mr Sleigh, however, he thinks that £3000 is too much to pay for the honour of a seat in the House of Commons, but he is willing to pay the strictly legal expenses of the election.——The elevation of Mr. Mellor to the vacant judgeship has occasioned a vacancy in the representation of Nottingham. Several names have been mentioned as Liberal candidates, among the rest those of the Earl of Lincoln (eldest son of the Duke of Newcastle) and Mr. Cheetham have been favourably received. Mr. Bromley, a Conservative candidate, is also talked of.

MR. DISRAELI was present on Monday at the ceremony of inaugurating an equestrian statue of the late Marquis of Londonderry at Durham. At a meeting held in the evening the right hon. gentleman replied to the toast of "The House of Commons," but his speech contained nothing of particular moment. He merely referred to the great event of the day in one sentence: all parties, he said, would be united in defending the honour of the country.

MR. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P., distributed prizes to the successful competitors of the Rochdale Working Men's Institute on Tuesday night. The Vicar of Rochdale delivered an address, and Mr. Bright followed with a very able speech on popular education.



THE PRIZE MEDAL OF THE SMITHFIELD CATTLE CLUB.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ENGLISH VESSELS.—Some months ago the Perthshire, of Hartlepool, a large colonial vessel of 840 tons, the property of Mr. William Gray, of Hartlepool, had been boarded without legal warrant by the United States' steamer Massachusetts, off the American coast, on the alleged ground that the Perthshire had violated the blockade of the Southern ports. Mr. Gray, on being made acquainted with the facts, presented a claim, through the British Government, for the loss sustained in consequence of detention, deviation, and consumption of stores. Mr. Gray's claim has been honourably and promptly responded to by the United States' Government, the following communication having been received from the Foreign Office by that gentleman:—"Nov. 12, 1861. Sir,—I am directed by Earl Russell to inform you that a despatch has been received from her Majesty's Minister at Washington stating that, in answer to the representation which he had made to the United States' Government respecting the seizure and detention of your vessel, the Perthshire, the United States' Secretary of the Navy had failed to satisfy him that the detention of that vessel by Commander Smith, commanding the United States' steamer Massachusetts, was warranted by law, or by the President's proclamation instituting the blockade, and that the President would recommend to Congress to appropriate the sum of £200 claimed by you as compensation. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, E. HAMMOND.—Mr. W. Gray, Hartlepool."

A large mill has been erected at Burnside Farm, near Alva, for the manufacture of paper from wood ground to dust. The invention is a French one, and has been patented.

THE DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT EDINBURGH.

THE full extent of the catastrophe occasioned by the fall of the tenement in High-street, Edinburgh, on the morning of Sunday week, has now been ascertained. Thirty-five bodies have been recovered from the ruins, and the number of the escaped and rescued is, so far as can be ascertained, thirty-two. The Rev. Dr. Guthrie thus describes a visit he made to the scene of the accident, and to the police-office, where he saw the dead and living who had been taken from the ruins:—"My first visit was on Sunday evening (the night of the accident) and it was a most awful thing to see the dresses on the walls, three or four stories high, which had been hung up by the inhabitants before the building sunk. In consequence of the floors giving way there were wardrobes which were exposed upon the wall, and it was a horrid thing to look up there, and see three or four gowns shaking and moving most ghastly-like in the wind of the night, and think that right down below were those that had put them off last night, and in perfect health, now lying begrimed, and mangled, and blackened corpses. I was struck with a staff that was hanging upon the wall five stories high. Little did that man think that staff was never to be in his hands again! There were looking-glasses hanging up there, where, I have no doubt, woman had admired herself—where she had dressed herself—and there they were flickering in the evening twilight. There were two clocks too, about 70ft. high, that told the hour when the catastrophe had happened, and they were emblems of the owners below—death had stopped the pendulum. Other articles might be seen, from which it was plain that the hands which had placed them there on that fatal night had been preparing for the Sabbath Day—the clothes, the week-day clothes

laid past, and the Sabbath clothes laid out. There were four or five fireplaces with the coals on the fire; and in some of them the very fires were burning, after the hands that had kindled them were paralysed in death. Of all the sights I ever saw before, those in the police-office were the most ghastly, and they were the most affecting. The bodies bore evidence that the death in many instances was in a moment. They were dug out of the ruins of their homes—some of them ten, twelve, or fourteen feet below that mass of rubbish. Some of them had been suffocated there; some of them had had time to pray; and there was one woman whose face bore all the evidence of slow suffocation. Another had had time to know what was to happen. She seemed just to have waked from her sleep—to have seen the gulf on which she was standing—that in another moment she would be in eternity—and the eyes, and the mouth, and the whole face was a picture of unutterable horror, and, when that horror was on her, death fixed the features. There she lay, a most ghastly spectacle. At another place I saw a babe lying on a mother's breast. It was most touching to see it—the dead mother and the dead babe in her arms! There was another lying beside her husband. He was a powerfully-built man—a perfect athlete in appearance—and there he lay as if he still slumbered, without a mark of pain or suffering on his face, and beside him—as they had lain living and lain loving in one couch together—lay his poor, cold, dead wife; and so sudden had death been there that she lay with her hand, as I have mine, upon her cheek—she hadn't had time to move a finger when she died. It was an awful sight; and I tell you I was thankful to see, as far as I could see, that there were none among all these corpses that had been leading a vicious, an impure, or an unholy life. They were, so far as we could learn or see, decent people, which is not the case in many of the houses in that locality. I left the cell of the dead and went to the cell of the living. There lay on the floor two pretty little girls, interesting and intelligent. I asked one of them, 'Had you any warning?' 'Oh, yes, Sir,' she said; 'my mother heard a noise like a great crack, and she rose and said the house was falling.' 'And what happened then?' 'Oh, you see, Sir, she heard no more of it, and she came beside me to bed.' And I said, 'How long did you lie in bed before the roof and the building fell?' She said, 'Perhaps, Sir, I was ten minutes in my bed when the roof came in and fell upon us, and I went down, down, down, till at length I remembered no more about it.' That child was, as it were, as one brought from the grave. They were digging by torch-light—the brave, bold men!—expecting every moment to be buried, and very likely might have been, in the same grave with those they sought to save."

We give an Illustration of the discovery of some of the bodies by these brave men, who continued the excavations until Friday week. When the foundations of the house were laid bare, about 18ft. below the level of the street, the cause of the catastrophe was at once disclosed. There was a concealed stone wall, 3ft. thick, which ran parallel to the front and back walls, in the middle of the huge building, but which was not carried into either of the gables, and it was found that on the west side it had been to a large extent undermined to make way for a boiler, the heat from which had helped to crumble the thin remainder of the wall. The boiler had been there for probably thirty or forty years, but of late it had been very little used. The wall had been further weakened by hollowing out a chimney for the boiler, and by carrying through a door. On the east side the wall on the shop floor had been partly removed (it is believed in 1814), to open the shop from front to rear, two pillars of the wall only being left for support. This wall was not only undermined, but was utterly decayed; and it not merely fell, but was shattered to pieces, one considerable fragment of it only being found remaining. The timbers, also, were perfectly rotten with age. On Friday—the sixth day after the catastrophe—a cat and a dog were extricated alive, both much emaciated. Some of the animals dug out alive from the ruins, including two birds taken down from the walls in their cages, have been since sold for considerable sums, one gentleman giving £20 for a little mongrel previously not worth as many pence. The fund for the relief of the sufferers amounts to about £1200 or £1500. The accident has caused a strict investigation by many proprietors into the condition of their properties, and in the case of three or four other large buildings the tenants have been warned out. In other cases the tenants are filled with alarm, there being many of the older houses in probably no better condition than the fallen one. A meeting was held on Friday week to institute a co-operation society among working men for the erection of houses. Mr. William Chambers presided.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—BRINGING IN A HEREFORD OX.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

If people want to see a genuine visit of "country" to "town" they should go to the Baker-street Bazaar, next week, to see the Cattle Show. What hosts of gentlemen who live at ease upon their landed properties; what multitudes of progressive farmers who have learned to outlive their horror of corn laws, and to put their shoulders to the wheel of agricultural improvement; what throngs of emulous competitors for the prizes, and of inventors seeking for a different sort of reward, though equally valuable—the popular favour to their implements; what levies of country relatives and friends, and gossips, all come pouring into London by every railway during the continuance of the show! To the bystanders one of the most amusing features of the scene is the arrival and departure of some particularly fine specimens of agricultural stock. Our Artist illustrates (see Engravings) two incidents of this nature—the bringing in of a mighty pig, and of one of the more noticeable examples among the oxen. We have also copied (see Engraving) the Prize Medal of the club, that precious little piece of metal which so many persons are striving to obtain. Of this medal about thirty silver and five gold impressions are annually given to the breeders of the prize animals at the Smithfield Club Show. The medal bears the effigies of Earl Spencer, first president of the club; and of the Duke of Richmond, the successor of Earl Spencer in the presidential chair.

As a proof of the increase which annually takes place in the demand for space for the exhibition of implements, the number of stands provided for this year amounts to 967, exactly 100 more than existed at the show of last year. This will admit no less than twenty-two locomotive agricultural engines and twelve with working machinery. The judges will make their awards and the private view take place on Monday, the 9th, and the show will open on Tuesday, the 10th, to the public, continuing open the three following days.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—UNCARTING A FAT PIG.

BOAR-HUNTING.

IT strikes one with surprise to hear every now and then of such a sport as boar-hunting in connection with the more civilised parts of Europe. We have so completely lost every vestige of the custom ourselves, the animal has so long died out from among us, that it seems to revive the feudal days, and to throw us back into the habits and mode of life that are so picturesquely described in "Quentin Durward." But we find that the boar still flourishes in Belgium. The Belgian journals state that in the forest of Ardennes for the space of twenty years very few wild boars were seen, but in the present year the forest is infested with them. One day lately as many as twenty-five were seen together, and on others forty, sixty, and even one hundred. The latter were in a potato-field close to the forest, and a gentleman who was out shooting fired at them, and, though his gun was only loaded with shot, killed one. Last week a singular incident occurred. A drove of pigs were sent to feed in a potato-field near Harre, a village on the borders of the forest; a number of wild boars rushed in among them; the pigs took fright and

A BOARHUNT.

SCENE FROM THE "RIVAL OTHELLOS," AT THE STRAND THEATRE.

ran as fast as they could into the village, the wild animals accompanying them. All the men of the place were at work in the fields at the time, and the women and children, seeing the animals, rushed from the houses in dismay. Many of the pigs and their visitors entered the cottages and did considerable damage. At last the wild boars returned of their own accord to the forest.

The boar is also still existent in France, and is frequently hunted. We present an Illustration (see Engraving) of a boar-hunt in the forest of Crecy.

Foreign News.

AMERICA.

By the arrival of the Persia we are in possession of intelligence from the United States to Nov. 20. The principal subject of excitement was the arrival of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, who had been conveyed to Fort Warren in Boston harbour. The feeling pervading the community appeared to be one of entire satisfaction at the success of Captain Wilks.

OPINIONS OF THE AMERICAN PRESS ON THE CAPTURE OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS.

The *New York Evening Post* (semi-official).—It cannot be doubted, therefore, that the arrest of Messrs. Slidell and Mason was fully warranted by the general principles of international law; that Captain Wilks would have been justly chargeable with a plain dereliction of duty if he had omitted to arrest them; they were in a private merchant or passage vessel, with full knowledge on the part of the master of their unlawful mission, and of their hostile designs towards the United States, with which his own Government was in amity, and the vessel and her master were therefore criminal participators in aiding the enemy; the arrest was made on the high seas, and without interfering with the sovereignty of the British soil, or of her public armed ships, and was justified because, in the language of Sir William Scott, "it was an aggravated case of active interposition in the service of the enemy, and marked with every species of malignant conduct." Indeed, Captain Wilks would have been justified in seizing the vessel and her cargo as prize and sending her in for condemnation. It is difficult to conceive how she could have escaped confiscation in an English, much less in an American, court, for the benefit of her captors. That he did not deem it his duty to proceed to this extremity the owners and the Government whose laws they were wilfully violating, in aid of a most unnatural and flagitious rebellion, are indebted to the forbearance and disinterestedness of Captain Wilks; and, while he will receive from his own Government and his fellow-countrymen the merit of their approbation for his gallant conduct, his praise will be none the less that he discharged the delicate duty cast upon him without any stain of personal interest, and in such a manner as to afford no just cause of offence to a great and powerful nation.

The *New York Commercial Advertiser* (Moderate.—The report made public this forenoon of the capture of Messrs. Slidell and Mason, the rebel Commissioners to Europe, has very naturally caused great excitement. From the telegraphic statement we think it clear that Captain Wilks has violated international rights, and that his act must be disavowed by the Government, the prisoners sent on their European voyage, and an apology be made to the British Government. National honour, justice, and consistency would seem to demand this of us. Captain Wilks has done the very thing, in principle, for which we went to war with England for doing. It is true that the right of search exists in a time of war, and vests in the belligerent. But this forcible seizure of political prisoners, when under the protection of a neutral flag, is unjustifiable, and ought to be repudiated by the United States' Government. We speak of the case only as the telegram represents it. A similar proceeding on the part of an English vessel of war will probably be within the recollection of some of our readers. We refer to the boarding of the ship Hercules, of Salem, Massachusetts, Captain Edward West, in a Sardinian port, some fifty years ago, and forcibly taking from on board Lucien Bonaparte, then on his way to the United States. The Hercules put into port on account of the sickness of Lucien Bonaparte, and at his urgent request. An English man-of-war was in port, got wind of the passenger on board, and sent a boatswain with an armed crew, who took Lucien away by force, carrying him on board the man-of-war, and he was taken a prisoner to England.

The *New York Herald* (Anti-British).—It is the duty of our Government to make preparations for any emergency. There is little probability that England will care to risk hostilities with us. It has too little to gain and too much too lose by fighting with the United States. But we ought, none the less, to be fully provided against any contingency that may arise. Congress is on the eve of reassembling, and the President, in his message, should call at once for 500,000 more men, and appropriations to build as rapidly as possible several hundred vessels of war. The circular of Secretary of State Seward to the Governors of States, recommending adequate provisions for the defence of the seacoast, should be acted on, just as though we were on the eve of a struggle with a powerful maritime nation. Sixty thousand New England mariners, including the 6000 unemployed fishermen, who are ready and full of warlike zeal, should be enrolled and offered proper inducements to enlist themselves under the flag of the Union, if it should unfortunately become necessary to fight for its honour and vindicate it against enemies who are endeavouring to undermine our nationality and destroy the freedom which was bequeathed to us by our forefathers. We do not anticipate anything more than much bustle and ostentatious parade of wrath on the part of the Government and press of Great Britain; but the surest method of restraining our old adversaries within the bounds of reason is to make it dangerous for them to overstep them.

The *New York World* (semi-official).—The Queen, in her neutrality proclamation, warned all her subjects, among other things, against "carrying officers, soldiers, despatches, arms, military stores, or materials for the use or service of either of said contending parties," and she closed by declaring that all so offending would "do so at their peril and of their own wrong, and that they will in no wise obtain any protection from us against any liability or penal consequences, but will, on the contrary, incur our high displeasure by such misconduct." Can it be supposed that her Ministers, in the fact of such a proclamation, will protect the Trent in her conveyance of these rebel emissaries and rebel despatches?

The steamer Champion, which arrived at New York on the 16th from Aspinwall, had on board as prisoners ex-Senators Gwin and Brent, of California, and Calhoun Benham, the Attorney-General of State under the Administration of Mr. Buchanan, under arrest by order of General Sumner. The arrested persons took passage from San Francisco to Panama on board the Orizaba, with the intention, as was believed, of making their way to New Orleans from some of the West India Islands. Before arriving at Panama, however, they were placed under arrest by General Sumner, and were conveyed across the Isthmus under guard of the National troops, notwithstanding a protest on the part of the New Granadian authorities, who considered such a proceeding a violation of the neutrality. The force at the command of General Sumner was too formidable to be interfered with, or a forcible rescue would probably have been made. The prisoners destroyed a number of documents while on board the Orizaba.

A skirmish had occurred between a party of Unionists and another of Confederates in the neighbourhood of Fall's Church, in which the latter were defeated with a loss of several killed and wounded. A fight had occurred on the Upper Potomac, in which the Unionists were victorious.

General Rosencranz had reported to the War Department his ability to maintain his position in Western Virginia. The Confederate batteries on the Lower Potomac had become less annoying to the shipping. Large numbers of Unionists, accompanied by flags of truce, continued to arrive at Fortress Monroe, on their way from the South.

General Dix had landed an army of 4000 troops in Accomac and Northampton counties, in Eastern Virginia, and was joyfully received by large numbers of the citizens. He had issued a proclamation to the people, calling upon them to lay down their arms and return to their allegiance to the Government, promising all loyal citizens protection of life, liberty, and property.

The Federal troops had not taken possession of Beaufort, although they visited the place daily. The negroes reported that numbers of the slaves had been shot down for refusing to follow their masters when they fled from Beaufort. It was reported that Beaufort would be made a port of entry, and that a revenue officer would soon be appointed to that post. It was stated that the Confederates at Savannah and Charleston had displayed the black flag to signify that they would give no quarter to the "invading" Union troops.

Some of the Southern papers declare that several Union officers had been set apart for capital punishment in case the Confederates recently tried in New York and Philadelphia are condemned to death.

A battle had been fought at Piketon, Kentucky, resulting favourably to the Union troops. It was reported that General Johnston was preparing to advance northward with an army of 40,000 Confederates to attack Louisville and Cincinatti. The Union men of East Tennessee had destroyed five of the principal railway bridges in that part of the State. General Price had retreated into Arkansas, where it was supposed that he would go into winter quarters. A letter had been received at Washington confirming the capture of the privateer Sumter. It was stated that she had mistaken a United States' gun-boat for a merchantman and had thus been captured. Her captain and crew were supposed to be prisoners on board the Niagara.

Thirty-seven contraband negroes arrived in Philadelphia on the 12th ult., having walked northward from Accomac county, on the peninsula of Virginia. They were supplied with money by the Wisconsin troops. Numbers of these people were said to be constantly arriving, which had stimulated a public meeting to be held to assist them.

THE SOUTHERN ARMY.—According to accounts from Washington, the Southern army is composed of 460,000 men. This calculation is based on the annual report of the Comptroller-General of Georgia, just published. That State has now in the service of the Confederacy forty regiments, which, assuming each regiment to be full and containing 1000 men, would be one out of every fifteen of the free population. The other Confederate States have apparently furnished the following numbers:—Eastern Virginia, 54,000; North Carolina, 45,300; Georgia, 40,000; Alabama, 34,000; Texas, 27,000; Mississippi, 27,100; Tennessee, 57,300; Louisiana, 23,600; Arkansas, 22,000; South Carolina, 20,800; Florida, 5400; total, 357,000, which does not include the troops furnished by Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland, amounting to about 100,000 men. By the census of 1860, the fighting population, or males between eighteen and forty-five, in the Confederate States are upwards of a million; so that it is reasonably supposed that half the number are under arms. The Southern regular navy, including ships of the line, frigates, sloops of war, brigs, first and second class steam-sloops, &c., amounts to 107 vessels, while with purchased and chartered ones the grand total is 311.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

The rumour of an Austrian intervention having taken place in Herzegovina is confirmed. The intervention is, however, of a very slight nature, being only for the purpose of clearing the military road between Klek and Ragusa. This accomplished, the Austrian troops will leave the territory.

The Imperial Government have succeeded in obtaining persons to fill the places vacated by the resignation of the Lords Lieutenant in the Comitats. No doubt these men will be the ready tools of the Government, but the appointments will hardly effect the great intentions of the Hungarian people. The Emperor of Austria is now in Venice.

The General Congregation of Croatia has, under certain reservations, ordered the military levies to be made in Croatia. The same congregation has also notified to all the functionaries that all official correspondence is to be conducted in the Croatian language.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Cambrian has arrived with the Cape of Good Hope mails. The state of affairs on the frontier is described as being still very unsettled. In Kaffraria Proper, Kreli was threatening to attack the Tambookies; Pretorius was intriguing for the possession of St. Lucia Bay, which is claimed by the English; and Panda and his son Ketchwago still demand that the Natal Government should give up the latter's younger brothers and rivals, which the Lieutenant-Governor had refused to do. The agitation on the separation movement had greatly diminished. The works on the Cape Town and Wellington Railway had been stopped in consequence of a dispute between the contractor and the company, which the Supreme Court had settled in favour of the company. The news received of Dr Mackenzie and Dr. Livingstone was good.

FRANCE.

In Paris the seizure of Messrs. Slidell and Mason, the Commissioners of the Confederates, has occasioned nearly as deep an interest as it has in this country. The *Patrie*, the *Constitutionnel*, and the *Opinion Publique* make their comments on the seizure, and it is almost needless to say that they regard it more as a question of national honour than of legal international right. The *Opinion Publique*, indeed, admits that the regulations with respect to neutral vessels in time of war differs in English and American practice from the French law on the subject; and though the *Opinion* says, "If the French flag had received such an insult the whole country would have risen as one man to demand satisfaction," yet it shows that the question as it stands is clearly within the reach of legal discussion. The other two journals are more decided in their views. They consider the seizure to be unjustifiable and illegal; and, whilst the *Constitutionnel* feels that the American Government will make reparation and apology, the *Patrie* fears they will hardly be able to do so, "in face of the irritation in which the press of the North keeps the population against England." The same journal suggests that "the two maritime nations might be drawn into a common action," and urges that it is time to put a stop to a "fratricidal war," which causes both French and English commerce to languish. This is strong language, stronger almost than any that has been used in England; and no wonder it gives rise to rumour and speculation. The foreign journals sometimes get information which is denied to us: the *Patrie* the other day furnished an example. This journal stated that Rear-Admiral Milne, on hearing of the seizure by the San Jacinto, sent three steam-frigates to escort the steamers from Cuba, and of course to prevent a repetition of Captain Wilks's proceeding.

The news of the determination of the British Government to demand redress for the outrage on the Trent has caused great consternation amongst the Americans residing in France, who are making preparations to hasten homewards with their ships and cargoes, fearing that an embargo will be laid on American ships in English ports. The feeling between the Yankees and the Southerners is so exasperated that at Havre the police have taken measures to prevent a collision between the sailors of the hostile ships in that port.

The *Moniteur* has published a report of the extraordinary meeting of the French Senate on Monday for the purpose of receiving the Senatus Consultum, which is to initiate the proposed changes in the financial system. The President, M. de Troplong, presided. The draught of the Senatus Consultum contains clauses which are to effect the following changes. The budget of expenses is to be presented to the Legislative Body in divisions, sections, chapters, and articles. The budget of each Ministry is to be voted by sections. The division by chapters of the credits granted to each Ministry will be regulated by an Imperial decree issued in Council of State. Special decrees issued in the same manner may authorise transfers from one chapter to another of the same Ministry. Supplementary and extraordinary credits cannot be granted, except in virtue of a law. Nothing is derogated from existing laws relative to closed years, and departmental, communal, and local expenses. The Senate merely re-

ceived the Senatus Consultum and then adjourned, in order that it might be printed and submitted to their consideration.

The Imperial Government is very touchy on the question of "the Constitution," notwithstanding the Emperor's promises. The *Moniteur* warns the press that the Emperor has twice rendered homage to the principle of "the Constitution," and the Government cannot, therefore, allow it to be discussed. The law on the press will protect it against all attacks.

INDIA.

The news from Calcutta brought by the overland mail is nearly confined to speculations on the cotton cultivation, and to the discussion of the Governor-General's resolutions for the sale of waste lands and the redemption of the land revenue. The latter measure is generally approved, and the greatest expectations are entertained of its valuable effects.

ITALY.

Baron Ricasoli made some statements on Thursday week in the Italian Senate which will be received with general satisfaction. In the first instance, he announced that the relations between France and Italy continue to be of the most cordial nature; and, in the second place, he affirmed that the accounts of the brigandage in the Neapolitan provinces are much exaggerated, the number of bandits in the Basilicata not exceeding 250. A bill for the temporary occupation of some of the convents by the military has been brought forward in the Senate, this measure being rendered urgent by the necessity of providing accommodation for the soldiers raised under the recent levies. The Bourbonian Duke Proto, who alone in the Italian Parliament represented the cause of genuine reaction, and who presented the other day the neatest proposal for the restoration of Francis II., has resigned his seat.

On Saturday last Signor Massari gave notice of a proposal to confer 1000*l.* as a pension upon every one of the thousand persons who accompanied Garibaldi in his expedition to Marsala.

A large majority of the Chamber of Deputies met on Sunday. The Ministers attended, and Baron Ricasoli entered into explanations on the state of Naples and the brigandage in the Basilicata and on the Papal frontier, and stated that the French troops had agreed to co-operate with the Italian troops to put down the brigands. The Minister also announced that the Lieutenancy of Sicily would be shortly abolished. These explanations were considered so satisfactory that all the Deputies present agreed not to concur in any vote of want of confidence in the Government which might be proposed by the Opposition.

Garibaldi made a sudden appearance in Genoa the other day. He addressed a few words from the balcony of the house where he is staying to an enormous crowd assembled beneath. There was nothing peculiarly significant in the few sentences he uttered. Deeds, not words, he declared, best suited himself and his hearers; and when the moment for action arrived he would not be found absent.

The Papal Government has addressed a circular to the Bishops of Maritimo, ordering them to afford every assistance to all Bourbonites entering that province.

MEXICO.

The Government, it is said, has received information of the agreement of Mexico to a convention by which our requirements are, one and all, fully conceded. Sir Charles Wyke has been able to negotiate and conclude terms by which full satisfaction is given to us. We are to have compensation for outrages, the repayment of money stolen, and the fulfilment of the engagements which the Mexican Government has, by treaty, stipulated towards the bondholders. This anticipatory step of the Mexican Government will, however, not affect the measures which the allies have taken for enforcing their respective rights. If, however, we can obtain what we demand without having recourse to physical force so much the better.

PORTUGAL.

The death of the young King of Portugal appears to have occasioned a feeling of deep regret, not only in the Portuguese themselves, but among the foreign residents in Portugal. The French and Italians have announced their intention to celebrate masses for the repose of the King; and the British residents have held a meeting to determine how they can best express their sympathy with the Royal family. Lord Methuen and Colonel Seymour, bearers of letters from Queen Victoria, have been presented to the new King.

PRUSSIA.

It is stated that in the Berlin Government a serious dispute lately took place between the King and the Minister of Finance in reference to increased military expenditure, and that the Minister gained the day. The King, according to the rumour, demanded an increase of 1,500,000 thalers for works to be done in the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein. The Minister thought it impossible to sanction such an augmentation of expenditure when the cipher of the military credits already had reached so great a height. A warm discussion ensued, and the Minister tendered his resignation. The result was that the King reconsidered the subject, and finally withdrew his demand.

The *Cologne Gazette* of the 29th ult., in adverting to the elections now going on, recommends the voters to choose firm but moderate men. It says:—"No one intends to labour to overthrow the Cabinet; but the mere desire of preserving it cannot be, as hitherto, the sole rule of conduct. The interest of the country, and the result which the maintenance of a permanent army of 200,000 men would produce in Prussia, that is to say, bankruptcy, must also be thought of."

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

News of a contradictory character comes to us with reference to the state of the city of Warsaw. One account from Thorn asserts that there is great agitation in the city, in consequence of the resignation of the Marquis Wielopolski, and the other from Warsaw as strongly asserts that everything is quiet: perfect tranquillity prevails in the city, and throughout the provinces, notwithstanding all intelligence to the contrary. Such is the language of the last account, though it is necessary to add that it comes from Russian sources.

The Council of State in Warsaw continues to discuss the question whether civil rights shall be granted to the Jews in Poland.

The Emperor of Russia has wisely determined to grant an amnesty to all persons implicated in the late disturbances at the University of St. Petersburg.

SPAIN AND ITALY.

Liberal opinions grow very rapidly in Spain, notwithstanding the character which that country enjoys for quite opposite sentiments. The Italian Ambassador, Baron Tecco, who left Madrid in consequence of the refusal of the Spanish Government to restore the Neapolitan archives, was enthusiastically received in Barcelona. An immense number of persons conducted him to the place of his embarkation, and the Baron made a speech in favour of a united Italy, and, by inference, in favour of something which the Spanish Government oppose.—The papers relating to the difference between Spain and Italy have been laid on the table of the Italian Parliament and have been favourably received by the members.

Secretary Baron Cavalmini will remain in Madrid to conduct the affairs of the Italian Legation.

Sporting News.

CROYDON STEEPLECHASES.—Tuesday.

Innkeepers' Plate.—Glautius, 1. Friar of Apshall, 2.
Railway Stakes.—Ingestre, 1. Goldsmith, 2.
Croydon Stakes.—Corkscrew, 1. Linkboy, 2.
Hunters' Stakes.—Yorkee, 1. The Dodger, 2.

Wednesday.

Stand Plate.—Corkscrew, 1. Yorkee. 2.
Selling Steeplechase.—Glautius, 1. The Dodger, 2.
Selling Handicap.—Marmion, 1. Ascot, 2.
Grand Metropolitan Steeplechase Handicap.—Heads or Tails, 1. Linkboy, 2.

DEERFOOT AT LEEDS.—On Monday Deerfoot ran at the Victoria Grounds, Leeds, against four competitors—Mills, Brighton, Barker, and Cliffe. Fifteen thousand persons were present. Mills, after a splendid run, gave up at six miles' distance. Barker had an accident, and was thrown over for two laps; but Brighton gamely ran on with Deerfoot to the close, and was distanced by only two yards. The Indian put on a tremendous spirt at the finish and arrived at the post by that distance ahead of his opponent. The time occupied in running the ten miles was fifty-three minutes and ten seconds.

DEERFOOT AT CAMBRIDGE.—A six-mile race, in which Deerfoot, Brighton, Lang, and S. Barker contended, came off on Wednesday at Cambridge. Full 5000 spectators were present, including the Prince of Wales and suite, and a large number of the fair sex also crowded the grounds. At the time of starting the appearance of the Indian was announced by loud cheers. He was presented to the Prince, who in the most gracious manner shook hands with him, and amid a scene of great excitement the men were told to "go," twenty-four circuits of the ground having to be made to complete the six miles. The Indian at once went ahead, first one and then the other afterwards taking the lead. Three miles were run in 15min. 42¼sec., when Lang gave in; and in the fifteenth round Barker was in difficulties, and, although he struggled to the end and tried all he could to live the pace, from this point he was out of the race. The Indian and Brighton at the fifth mile passed the post side by side, 26min. and 35sec. having now elapsed, when a most exciting struggle took place. On commencing the last mile the Indian dashed in front, Brighton hanging desperately on him, and ever and anon, as each went in front by not more than a yard, the excitement was immense and the cheers almost deafening. Brighton tried hard to keep up with the Redskin, and in the twenty-third lap again just got in front, and loud shouts announced that they had commenced the last round. Deerfoot gallantly answered the call of his friends, and, going off with a rush, was ten yards ahead before halfway round, and, although Brighton came again within four yards of the Indian, another rush of Deerfoot decided the race, the Seneca man leaving off as fresh as when he commenced. Loud cheers announced another victory of this now famed runner. The Prince again shook hands with him and presented him with a purse, and also gave a handsome gratuity to the three Englishmen.

THE ITALIAN TURF.—The Italian Minister of Agriculture and Commerce has granted 50,000f. for races in Italy, on condition that the Société des Courses (Jockey Club) at Turin will grant a similar sum for the same purpose. This is the first encouragment the Italian Government has awarded to racing.

ANOTHER "VISIT" BY THE SAN JACINTO.—Capt. Guichon, of the French merchant-brig Jules et Marie, just arrived at Havre, reports that on the 3rd of November, when about twenty miles north of the lighthouse of Matanzas, he was boarded and overhauled by the American frigate San Jacinto, in addition to which considerable damage was done to his vessel by the frigate running into her, and carrying away her masts. The San Jacinto fired a gun to bring the brig to, but hoisted no colours. The brig showed the French flag. Immediately on reaching Matanzas, Captain Guichon reported what had taken place to the French Consul, and drew up a protest against what had been done, setting forth the circumstances of the incident, and declaring that he had been required to show his papers, &c. The brig was bound from Liverpool to Matanzas with a cargo of coal.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN'S STAFF.—*La Patrie* publishes the following:—"We have received from a private source from Washington a document which, at the present moment, is not devoid of interest. This document gives the list of General M'Clellan's Staff, approved by President Lincoln. The names are as follow:—Marcy, Brigadier-General and Inspector-General; Stoneman, General-in-Command of the Cavalry; Van Vliet, Quartermaster-General; Seth Williams, Adjutant-General; Lieutenant-Colonel Colburn, Adjutant to the Adjutant-General; Lieutenant-Colonel Hudson, Inspector-General; Captain Louis Philippe d'Orleans, Count of Paris; Captain Robert d'Orleans Duke of Chartres, Aides-de-Camp.

THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH in the metropolis continues to be on the whole satisfactory. The number of deaths last week was 1424, which is nearly the same number as that returned for last week, and a near approximation to the average number of the corresponding week for the last ten years. The deaths in the City continue to be considerably below the average. The births for the week were 1791 children, which is about 100 higher than the ten years' average.

THE SEIZURE OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS.

REFERRING to our leader for the weightier questions of international law arising out of this event, we here confine ourselves to the selection of a few additional particulars of what occurred, premising that we have necessarily, as yet, the statements of one side only, which may possibly, therefore, be subject to some modification when we have reports from the other.

MR. SLIDELL AND HIS DAUGHTER.

The purser of the Trent, who does not, however, conceal his animus and his utter ignorance of international law, says that, "when the gentlemen retired to arrange some changes of clothing, prior to their departure in the San Jacinto, a most heartrending scene took place between Mr. Slidell, his eldest daughter, a noble girl devoted to her father, and the Lieutenant. It would require a far more able pen than mine to describe how, with flashing eyes and quivering lips, she threw herself in the doorway of the cabin where her father was, resolved to defend him with her life, till, on the order being given to the marines to advance, which they did with bayonets pointed at this poor defenceless girl, her father ended the painful scene by escaping from the cabin by a window, when he was immediately seized by the marines and hurried into the boat, calling out to Captain Moir as he left that he held him and his Government responsible for this outrage."

Another account states, on what authority we know not, that Miss Slidell was not content with the sort of protest shown in the conduct described by the purser, but that she exerted herself as a decided "belligerent." The statement occurs in the following passage from one of the daily papers:—"It is stated that the Americans, while on board the mail-steamer Trent, behaved in a very violent manner. No authentic information has, however, been received to confirm this statement, which more particularly mentions that, while Mr. Slidell was in his cabin with Mrs. Slidell arranging his private papers, &c., the First Lieutenant of the San Jacinto endeavoured to force the cabin-door. Miss Slidell was at the door protecting any intrusion upon her father, and Lieutenant Fairfax then endeavoured to forcibly remove her, whereupon Miss Slidell slapped him in the face. Lieutenant Fairfax then ordered one of the marines to charge her with open bayonet, which command was immediately obeyed, and would have no doubt resulted seriously to Miss Slidell had not Commander Williams struck the marine and his bayonet to the ground and protected the young lady."

It can hardly be doubted that we shall hear more of this matter, one way or the other. We may add that the families of Mr. Slidell and Mr. Eustis were urged by the First Lieutenant of the San Jacinto to accompany them, but, being informed on inquiry that it was probable they would be separated from them on their arrival at New York, they declined the offer, and have arrived in the Plata. And this fact alone, if we rightly understand the spirit in which the offer was made, may suggest that we should suspend our judgment on all these personal matters until we have the whole case completely before us.

RECEPTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN AMERICA.

A second edition of the *New York Herald* of Nov. 16 gives the following particulars of the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell:—"Fortress Monroe, Nov. 15.—The United States' steam-frigate San Jacinto, Captain

Wilks, arrived in the roadstead at half-past twelve p.m., having on board the rebel commissioners Slidell and Mason. They were taken from the English mail-steamer on the 8th inst., off Bermuda. Lieutenant Fairfax and thirty-five armed men went from the San Jacinto with five officers, who boarded the steamer and picked out the commissioners. Messrs. Slidell and Mason made feeble resistance, but were induced to leave with Lieutenant Fairfax. The captain of the steamer raved and swore, called the United States' officers piratical Yankees' and other abusive names. One of the secretaries of the rebel commissioners named Husted or Hurstace also showed resistance; but himself and colleague accompanied their employers to confinement. Mr. Slidell had his wife and four children on board, who were allowed to proceed to Europe. Commodore Wilks came ashore and had a lengthy conversation with General Wool. He expressed his opinion that he had done right, and said that, right or wrong, these men had to be secured; and if he had done wrong he could do no more than be cashiered for it. When it became known that these two worthies were in Hampton Roads the excitement was immense. Some reported that quarters would be provided for them on the Rip Raps; but either the frigate will proceed to New York, or some other vessel will be sent there with the prisoners on board, and deliver them at Fort Lafayette."

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW.

[The following extracts are from a letter of Mr. George Sumner, of Boston, a gentleman whose theoretic and practical knowledge of the law of nations has, perhaps, no superior in the country, in reply to inquiries addressed to him by one of the principal merchants of Boston]:—

"According to the law of nations the Trent was doubly liable to capture.

"1st. For carrying enemies' despatches.

"2nd. For the act of the purser in refusing to exhibit the ship's papers to the boarding officer.

"And she was again, by English practice, liable to capture, for carrying a hostile ambassador.

"In illustration of this last proposition, let me draw your attention to a case which presents many points of analogy with that under consideration, and which is in itself interesting.

"During the War of the Revolution Henry Laurens, former President of Congress, was sent as Minister to Holland, with instructions to secure the recognition of our independence, to conclude a treaty, and to negotiate a loan in that country. He remained a long time at Charleston, seeking means to reach his destination, and, finally, in February, 1780, went on board the Adriana, a fast-sailing brigantine, the master of which engaged, in spite of the British fleet, to carry him to Martinique. It was not until August that he took passage for Holland in a Dutch packet, the Mercury. In a letter to Congress, written on board the British frigate Vestal, on the 14th of September, 1780, and which may be found in 'Sparks's Diplomatic Correspondence of the Revolution,' vol. ii., p. 461, Laurens describes the capture of the packet when three days out—the seizure of his papers—his arrival on board the Vestal at St. John's, Newfoundland—and the order of the Admiral commanding to send him, his secretary, and the captain of the packet as prisoners to England. Holland was then a neutral Power.

"You ask how the act of Commander Wilks will be viewed in England? Englishmen will, I believe, remember that one of the earliest deeds of this rebellion was a brutal insult offered to their flag in the rebel port of Savannah. They will remember that an English shipmaster, Captain Vaughan, of London, was seized on board his ship by the 'Regulators,' 'Rattlesnakes,' or some other of the constituted authorities of that town, charged with having given a dinner to the coloured stevedore then at work for him, torn from the side of his wife, cruelly maltreated, then tarred and feathered, while he proclaimed himself a British subject and pointed in vain to the meteor flag of England waving over his head."

THE FRIGHTFUL CATASTROPHE AT EDINBURGH.—SEARCHING FOR THE BODIES BY TORCHLIGHT.

Two Black Masks.

BY

BLANCHARD JERROLD.

CHAPTER X.

Edmond was at his work betimes. The ring of his hammer smote upon the ears of Mdme. Souchet before she had thrown open the doors of the Bon Voyageur for the day's business. Edmond chirped, and whistled, and sang, and rallied every passer-by. Work appeared to be the delight of his soul. The Big Corporal went limping past. Impossible in his case to "shoulder his crutch and show how fields were won."

"What! Corporal, laying siege to the Bon Voyageur early, eh?" cried Edmond. "The enemy's stirring, and ready."

The corporal grunted a good morning, and passed on. Edmond sent a few epithets—too strong for polite ears—in the rear of the old soldier.

By six o'clock there was an unusual stir throughout Beauregard. Some twenty miners arrived, arm-in-arm, singing. One or two of them walked before the forge and rallied Edmond on his industry. The blacksmith continued at his work as he talked to his visitors. They told him that their master had blown out the fires, and that they were left without work. Edmond told them that there was no man on the Count de Chapelle's premises, and that they would do well to apply to his Highness.

"What, take the bread out of our neighbour's mouths! That would never do."

"The Count would possibly give them a loaf and some cider!"

"We're not beggars!" the miners shouted.

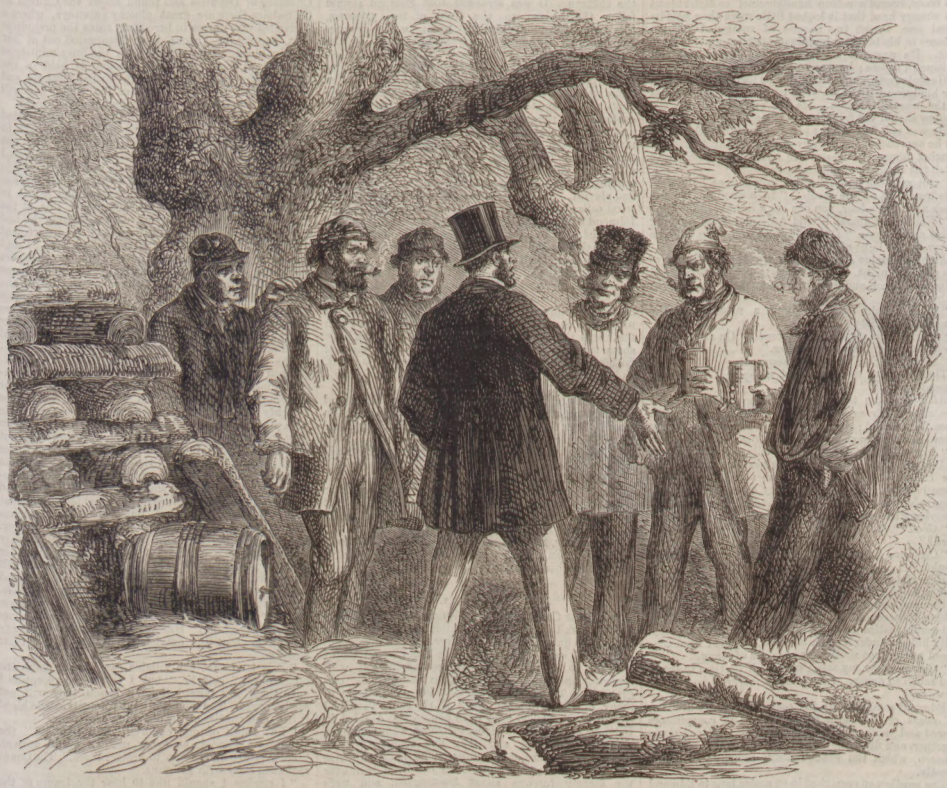
"There would be no harm in testing the hospitality of the château," Edmond suggested. "It was the bounden duty of him who had bread to feed the hungry. Let them ask the Curé whether this were not a Christian precept."

The men departed singing, and found their way to the door of the Bon Voyageur. Edmond watched them, laughing.

The workmen whom the Count had cast off lounged wearily and angrily about the village. From time to time they gossiped with the blacksmith; but only one or two entered his shed. With these he had rapid conferences. While he talked to them, and they replied in an under tone, he still wielded his hammer. Money passed among them, and then they departed, bearing a few companions with them.

"Be cautious; and bid them to the ——. You understand me!"

The miners grew very boisterous at the Bon Voyageur as the day wore on. Mdme. Souchet was in despair. She said that she would go down on her knees to them; she would make them a present of a mug of wine all round; they might take what they pleased, if they would only go in peace, and leave a poor widow to earn her honest living. The Curé passed and remonstrated with the roysterers; but they told him to go about his business and preach to the old women. He walked hastily home—he said to pray for them. Here a loud and general shout of derision. The Big Corporal essayed his powers of persuasion. An octogenarian, feeble-voiced and lame, talking to tipsy miners in their prime, he was advised to be quiet, and to keep all his eloquence for the Widow



TWO BLACK MASKS.—THE MIDNIGHT MEETING IN THE FOREST.

Souchet. There would be wine left for the wedding. It was in the height of the clamour when a stalwart fellow, and with a Bardolph nose, vowed he would kiss the lady before he left; that the lady in her exasperation muttered something about to-morrow and the dagroons.

"To-morrow! The dragoons!" Every man present stared at his neighbour. A little fellow, more irascible than the rest, seized Widow Souchet by the arm, and, grinding his teeth most ungallantly near her honourable nose, declared that he would eat her if she did not explain herself.

At this moment some of the men who had been gossiping with Edmond entered the house.

The clink, clink, of Edmond's hammer sounded throughout as evenly as a Quaker's pulse.

"Friends! Friends! What is it?" said the foremost of the new-comers, our Jacques Parot, the shoemaker, or, rather, the sabotmaker.

"The dragoons! The dragoons!" the miners shouted.

"The dragoons! and where, pray?" Jacques asked, folding his arms by way of making himself impressive.

"Ask this woman here?" the irascible little miner answered.

"Pooh! There are no dragoons, because there is no reason for dragoons. Widow Souchet, wine all round."

Mdme. Souchet hesitated; but Jacques stamped with his wooden shoes and repeated his order. He then turned to pacify the group, he, and his companions. They drank the wine, and filled their pipes from the shoemaker's pouch. Whereupon the boisterous miners were persuaded by Jacques and his sober companions to take a walk, and discuss their grievances like rational men, not to shout and quarrel over them like schoolboys.

Clink, clink, went Edmond's hammer; and when the sun was low in the west the brawny worker had still a horseshoe to make.

Night came slowly, as night comes upon men who have dreadful work in hand to be done by favour of the darkness. Edmond went, as usual, to the Bon Voyageur, and smoked, and talked, and even sang a song, in amiable mood. Jacques Parot dropped in with a few companions. A miner or two were of the party. All were quiet and cheerful, and the widow was delighted. Not a word passed between Jacques and Edmond, but they both rallied the Big Corporal, telling him that there was not a whisper about the return of the Bonaparte. Edmond retired early, as was his custom; and the widow even deigned to smile upon him as he paid his score. He hummed on his way home, and cast his cheery "Good night!" right and left.

Once in his home—a solitary place; for he had neither wife, nor child, nor sister—he sat by his forge fire, that was still warm, although he had damped it, and smoked hard at his pipe. Never yet did man in cold blood meditate an evil deed that he had not moments of vague fear—when his brow grew wet and cold—when he bit his lip and clenched his hands, and felt that a chasm was opening at his feet. A vague, wondering fear this, natural to the stoutest heart. Edmond had nerves of iron—an eye that would not have blinked when fixed upon a cannon's throat. He was one of those fiery, fell peasants, who start, in periods of social convulsion, from the wayside, and get cunning, and even at times wisdom, from the strength of their passions—a very animal; but with that in him for evil which the king of the forest has not. Of rustic cruelties in civil conflict how many freezing instances may we not gather from chroniclers of French revolutions? Not many months from this time in which our present business lies, in the streets of Lyons, wives and children shall start from lanes to hack the wounded dragoons their savage lords have stoned from the housetops. Edmond sate in close

darkness reviewing the work he had taken in hand. He would not show a light through his shutters to any villager who might be passing by. He must remain, dark in his lair, until the hour sounded, when, with velvet footstep, a dagger cushioned in its softness, he might set forth and fall upon his sleeping prey. The hours lagged. In very weariness of mind and muscle Edmond fell asleep. He slept but little; for his great chest heaved with the weight and terror of his dreams. He woke, and believed that he had passed hours, and that the longed-for time had come. He caught the baying of the hounds at the château; and he growled and muttered between his teeth, and felt savage as a weasel in a trap. Again he filled his pipe, and doggedly sate upon his stool, and blew the smoke into the darkness, riveting his eyes upon the sparks in the pipe-bowl, for in this hour these were companions. Then with his flint he lit a match near his little clock, and caught the direction of the hands. It was time, at any rate, to make preparations. He fumbled for his sheepskins, bound some leather over his boots, bound a cotton handkerchief so tight about his shaggy head that it looked little more than half its usual size, thrust two parcels of smuggled Belgian tobacco in his breast, a bundle of matches, and his large flint. He now felt strong as a lion, for he was not waiting in repose; he was on his errand.

He stole forth, empty-handed; he had neither firearm nor bludgeon with him. The cunning of the fox was in the heart of the man. He was careful that even his shadow should not fall athwart the road.

He was not first at the place of meeting this time. As he approached he perceived two or three lanterns dancing among the trees. He could hear voices and catch the shadows of moving men.

"Out with the lights!" cried Edmond, as he pushed into the midst of the group. "In a wood, let it be as thick as a man's hair, you can see a light for miles."

"Welcome, Edmond!" said Antoine. Then, turning to his companions, "Do as he tells you. We must be merry by the light of the stars."

Among Antoine's companions was the gentleman of the previous night. This mysterious personage grasped Edmond's hand, and told him he knew he was a man of his word.

"Or I should not have been a member of the honourable Society of"——

"Hush!" the stranger whispered. "On errands like these every word is a new danger."

"You are right," Edmond answered.

Then Jacques advanced and whispered, "We may depend upon all."

All meant the three or four dozen louts who were scratching their ears at Jacques's heels. None were from Beauregard; Jacques was too cunning to choose from the neighbourhood of his own nest.

"I have left the fellows in the village wild with rage and brimmed with wine. The miners are carousing at the Halte, where it's certain the tidings will reach them betimes. There is a peppery little fellow among them who has a tongue of flame, and who seems to hate everybody and everything."

"Good!" said Edmond. "You are sure of the men here?"

"Certain; for a word from me would send the lot to Toulon."

Here the gentleman interposed—the night was short, and all must be done while the east was dark.

Edmond and Jacques hereupon tapped the wine, and offered tobacco and unlimited drink to the men. These did ample justice to the vintage. The cask was carefully hidden under a stack of wood, and had been conveyed to the spot under some trusses of straw.

"Come—come, my men; we have little time to spare, and much to drink. Let us make merry before we go to work."

Edmond remained at the cask, incessantly drawing off mugs of the ruby bordeaux. The conspirators stared and winked at one another, and clattered mugs together, and filled the air with the fumes of the Belgian tobacco, which the French north countryman enjoys greatly.

The gentleman remarked in an under tone to Edmond that he did not drink. Edmond answered that he needed no wine to nurse his courage.

"But we must drink with our friends." The gentleman took a beaker and raised it aloft before the group.

"Friends," he said, speaking in an under tone, "A glorious revolution has been accomplished. Henceforth we are equals—we are brothers. These men looked giants when we were upon our knees: but we have regained our feet. If there still be a few proud oppressors of the poor, let us root them out. Let justice be done to one and all in the sacred name of liberty. He who would live a life of luxury by grinding the bones of the workman—he who insolently believes that the grip of the poor man's hand soils his nobility—let him have a care!"

The château hounds bayed mournfully in the distance. The gentleman faced the sound, then raised his arm menacingly—

"Count Baptiste de Capelle, proud daughter of the haughty des Yeux, beware! Sleep while the hour approaches. You chase your servants like vermin from your gates: but the vermin are not dead. Your slaves of yesterday will front you men to-night. Do you ask mercy? You shall have the measure of it you have distributed, and no more. You dispense justice with the air of conquerors, sending innocent men forth to starve: you wash from your children the taint of village brats. It is well: but the worms are rising under your footsteps. Aristocrats! the people, after years of oppression, come to speak with you—to show you how mighty is the arm you have so long held in bondage!"

The gentleman raised the beaker to his lips and emptied it. The company followed his example. Jacques's followers grinned and shook hands, and nodded; and, in uncouth manners, exhibited their delight. The speech had the best effect. Incendiaries became avenging angels. The speech was cleverly conceived. Its appeal to the vanity of the poor inflamed rustics was irresistible. They were to be the righteous bearers of a sword of flame that was to rid the earth of a pestilence. In the name of liberty yet another evil deed was to be done.

The men set to their task with a will. Edmond stuffed their pockets with his choice tobacco; and I am much mistaken if the gentleman did not contrive to slip some substantial token of regard into every man's hand. More wine, and then forward before the mantle of night is lifted from the heavens.

The group separated into two parties; one led by Edmond and one by Jacques. They carried with them all materials necessary to their end. The wood in which the meeting was held stretched to the rear of the château. It was arranged that Edmond should follow the hedges to the front of the premises, this being the more perilous way: while Jacques led his men through the circuitous paths of the forest, under cover of the trees. The gentleman accompanied Jacques's party, but suddenly left it before it had gained the open near the house. Both parties knew well how to avoid the kennel, where the hounds kept up a constant moaning. Both were equally cautious and equally determined. The plan was well matured. The stacks of wood in the courtyard, the massive wooden doors and wooden shutters in the front, the side-doors of old wood, that led to old wooden staircases, were all conveniently disposed. Not a soul was stirring. The clouds were heavy, the wind was light and playful. Jacques cast some pitched sticks into the wood cellar, while his companions lighted the stacks. Edmond set lights under the doors and shutters, and contrived to poke lighted wood into the lumber-room.

Enough that the end which these desperate men had agreed to accomplish was coolly and cleverly worked out. Within the walls of the château about fifteen human creatures were resting, unconscious that they lay, calm and sleeping, upon their funeral pile. There were innocents in the nursery, with their dimpled cheeks pressed upon their chubby hands, who would never touch again the hoops that were lying in the hall, nor the little shoes that lay by their cots. Henri's many years of faithful service would receive their reward this night, and an honest man the less would behold to-morrow's sunrise.

Edmond and Jacques met and walked together round the château, while their companions crept back to the woods. The fire was peeping out and crackling on all sides.

"They'll fare like wasps in their nest," said Edmond. "And now home; the men understand their business."

"And will stick to it."

The two men then retreated, rapidly skulking along the hedges to the village. As they parted Edmond said to his companion, "Mind, at the first alarm be ready. I will not keep you waiting long."

"Never fear, Edmond. Down with the aristocrats!"

The two men slily entered their respective cottages and went to bed, but not to sleep.

CHAPTER XI.

When the Count dismissed his farm servants he gave strict orders to Henri and Virginie not go beyond the park-gates on any pretext whatever. "The ungrateful dogs shall come back upon their knees," said Count Baptiste to his wife, while he amused himself with screwing and unscrewing his guns and pistols. Ungrateful! There were sins that lay at the doors of many of these humble tillers of the soil. They had snared birds, filched eggs from hen-roosts, dabbled in Belgian contraband tobacco, illtreated dumb animals, used foul language, and they had staggered home under the influence of the grape. The nature of these men was dull, impenetrable. They had lived, bent over the steamy furrows about Beauregard, and were familiar with worms rather than with their own species. They were, indeed, of the earth, earthy. But how they had wronged their lofty master was not easily discoverable. He had paid them fair wages; but, on their part, they had done a fair day's work. The Count had enabled them to buy black bread and to kill a pig for their families; while they had filled his granaries, stocked his gardens, and kept his peaches to ripen, spotless, upon his sun-kissed walls. Although it must appear to the unprejudiced observer that the Count had not the worst side of the bargain: a life of idle ease, repaid by the enjoyment of every luxury he could desire—instead of incessant labour in frost and heat, repaid by four walls of baked mud, and fare that his Countship's favourite horse would disdain—he must needs believe that the labourers on his estate were bound to follow him as his hounds followed him, and to bless the hand that enabled them, after a day's labour, to eat sorrel soup under a leaky thatch.

Augustine, the Count's rich wife, was of her husband's opinion on this point. And no wonder. She had been in the habit of patronising people throughout her life. When she had trundled her hoop, or skipped under the broad-spread chestnuts of the Tuileries gardens, her movements had been watched by two Normandy nurses. She had learned religion, not among the people, but apart, in the midst of budding duchesses and countesses, at the aristocratic Convent of the Sacré Cœur. She had been used to regard the serving-people about her as of a class created to serve hers; and she expected a gracious word from her highness to a domestic to be repaid with the gratitude her poodle showed for a Rheims biscuit. By nature indolently good-natured, Augustine was often pleased to be open and talkative with all about her. When Virginie fell ill, the Countess asked most affectionately about the poor nurse—and sent her own doctor to her, as the Count, when he was in a good temper, would chatter familiarly with Henri. The creed of man and wife was one, in social arrangements. They both hated every sign the middle or working classes gave that times were changing; and, to quote Lady Mary Wortley Montague, that the world, being past its infancy, would no longer "be contented with spoonmeat." They would have been the kindest and most condescending of slaveowners.

Nor is their race extinct now, swiftly as the world has spun "down the ringing grooves of change," since Louis Philippe mounted his horse in tumultuous Paris, and promised his countrymen all his foolish, card-playing old relative had denied them. Behind the Chamber of Deputies and round about the Church of St. Sulpice there are great gloomy gateways, where a shrivelled race nurses in hereditary ruins the prejudices that, happily for France, have disappeared out of her healthy blood. They savagely eye the busy ministries round about them, where the tricolour is held in the claws of the eagle, and wonder—foolish dotards and dullards that they are!—whether the white flag will presently bring them back to the notice of the world.

Stern, and resolute, and silent, Count Baptiste waited while his discharged servants prepared to crawl back to his outraged presence on their knees. He had not received one word from his brothers since he answered that letter from the Rue de l'Arcade in which Sebastien had, in despair, besought him to do a brotherly service. He was in doubt as to the turn affairs had taken in Paris. He had taken one precaution, and this at the beseeching of his wife. By a trusty messenger he had dispatched a note to the Sub-Prefect of the department requesting the protection of a few gendarmes, to be sent late at night, and across country, that the villagers might not be aware of their arrival. No answer came to his application. The messenger returned with the unsatisfactory news that the town was in a most dangerous state of excitement, that the workmen were parading the streets, and that he could see only a porter at the Prefecture. The Count was only the more careful of his arms and more precise in his directions to Henri.

The children played about their mother's boudoir, climbed upon their father's knee, and wondered a thousand times why they might not go out with hoop or skipping-rope. Virginie told them that there were naughty people outside. Their mother soothed them with promises and sweetmeats. Their father told them they were too young to understand; but they were not satisfied. The bright eyes of children are quick to see anything that is strange in the manner of those whom they love. Deceived for a moment by words of consolation, or by hypocritical smiles, they return again and again when the cloud settles on the loved face—eloquent questioners who speak not, but whose stare searches deep and gives a new keenness to distress or danger. It was when the laughing boy—hope of her haughty house—stole to her knees and looked earnestly into her dark, mysterious eyes, that Augustine de Capelle felt all the danger of the position in which her husband and children were placed. Her passionate embrace, accompanied by a few tears that would well out upon the boy's little hands, only made him look more inquisitively at her. Her husband assured her twenty times a day that she exaggerated the gravity of their position.

"It is true that the villains came to our doors the other night," said he, "but I think the reception I gave them has taught them a lesson they will not easily forget. The mob is always cowardly. The blood is bad, and curdles at the approach of danger."

"But think of our children, dear Baptiste," the Countess answered, as every mother would answer. "Their father knows how to protect them." The Count remained busy with his guns.

"I confess I should like to hear the tramp of the gendarmes through the wood," Virginie said to her mistress.

"The Count says we have nothing to fear," the Countess answered. She would not be weak before her domestic.

When bedtime approached every part of the château was secured. The servants who remained were instructed how to act at the first signal of alarm. One servant was left to keep watch within through the night. The Count placed his guns and pistols by his couch. The children's beds were made in their mother's pretty boudoir.

The Count and Countess retired to their room, and remained long after their establishment had retired to rest discussing the situation of themselves and the country.

"My dear," said the Count, on a certain night described in the last chapter. "My dear, let us look rationally at events. Even these shopkeepers have had enough of revolutions and émeutes. The rising of the mob is the signal for putting the shutters up. The shopkeeper looks to his till before everything. His profits govern his principles. These traders will not allow the working men to have the upper hand again, depend upon it."

"Yes, yes," the Countess answered, regarding the case only as it might directly affect her and hers, "the shopkeepers, may keep the King on his throne; but we may be ruined—murdered—in the meantime. The gendarmes have not come. Something frightful must be going on in the town."

"Or," the Count answered, "the riots being suppressed everywhere, the Sub-Prefect may think, and with reason, that our rustics have returned to their work in a proper spirit; as they must and shall return to it. I shall know who are the culprits, and will have them punished."

Augustine shook her head and stole into her boudoir to have a peep at her sleeping children. Sleep gently and soundly, with dreams of the angels, or with thoughts no more sinful than of pouting over little lessons to be committed to memory. Happy state of confidence so frail and so trustful. The innocent child, its cherub cheek upon its clasped hands, waits the crime of men who are to destroy it, happy as it has waited from its cradle the loving arms of the nurse who has lifted it o' mornings from its sleep and surprised its heavy eyelids with a kiss. Fond and anxious mother, with the devouring eyes, black and lustrous; your fair hands have cease to tremble as they adjust the dainty covering over the precious limbs of your noble boy. He dreams not that there are wild men drinking in yonder wood, and plotting harm to him and you. Your arms have been the shield on which he has rested, and he knows not that harm can come to him, while you and his sire, and the good nurse snoring at his feet, are by. You are his world: and he went to sleep, his whole world smiling upon him. It may be happiness even to remember this, and to have this memory only in the days to come.

How it happened that in the dead of the night, the hour for the vigilant watchman to strain ears and eyes, no eye was wakeful, and that the conspirators, whom we have marked already successful in their foul design, startled none within the château, is an accident past explanation. The tomb has sealed this secret from the world. The tender mother was sleeping also; then, wherefore cast suspicion on the hired watchman? The husband by his comely bride was sleeping, while death was stealing in the dark night round his household, armed with fire and poniard, and not inclined to leave the night's work undone.

The flames twisted and crawled, and darted at every door; volumes of smoke rose like grand funeral feathers from the wood-stacks. The wind caught the flames and they murmured to a gentle roar, low and mournful. Will no sleeper awake and save the precious lives within? Man's wickedness is provident. Bullet and dagger are provided for the wakeful who may pass the flaming threshold.

Some tramps passing, as it was said, afterwards by accident through the village saw the rushing flames and the clouds of black smoke. The villagers of Beauregard were alarmed. They rushed like frightened rats from their holes.

"Where is the blacksmith?" shouted one of the tramps, "He will be able to break the doors open. Quick, quick!"

A dozen men went to Edmond's but and hammered at his door. He growled from within, sleepy and angry.

"Bah!" he muttered when he was besought to run to the château and carry hammers, &c., with him, for it was on fire. He came forth slowly, amid cries of impatience from the bystanders, whereupon one or two seized upon hammers and rushed forward. Edmond in the end followed.

Crowds of peasants, miners, and others from the neighbourhood soon gathered about the burning building, shouting, knocking at the blazing doors and windows, and calling upon the Count and his servants to save themselves. The chief force of the mob was directed against the principal entrance. Here the hammering was from the arms of Edmond and his companions. "We shall save them yet!" he cried, "Harder boys, harder!"

The doors fell back sheeted with flame. The hall within was a furnace. Dense volumes of smoke burst forth, obscuring all, and the less adventurous of the crowd fell back. But the screams of women came from the building, and a few pushed forward. The Count, wild and horror-struck, appeared with a child in his arms and a woman clinging to him—about them smoke reddened with flame. The roar of the flames, the screams and shouts of the spectators, rose over all. There was a sudden rush to the door where the Count had appeared. Some blows were given, said some people, afterwards; but the Count never appeared again—nor he, nor his wife, nor that noble boy upon whom a mother had looked so anxiously a few hours before.

At that fatal doorway—a dozen people could prove it—appeared two men with Black Masks!

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE FEMALE BLONDIN.—It appears, from the *Western Daily Mercury*, that the female Blondin has had a narrow escape at a performance in St. George's Hall, Stonehouse. In her first journey there was a manifest want of steadiness in the rope. The lady then descended to the platform, where her eyes were blindfolded, and a sack put over her head, the arms alone being left free. The stays of the rope had been tightened in the meanwhile, and "Mdme. Blondin," having again stepped upon it, walked firmly along it until within twenty feet of the organ loft, when the fixtures of the rope gave way and slipped fully two or three feet. The marvel is that the lady was not precipitated to the floor. The spectators held their breath in fear until the courageous woman was seen ascending the incline, now far more difficult and dangerous than before. She reached the gallery in safety; but the remaining portion of the performance was not proceeded with, greatly to the relief of those who had witnessed this alarming scene. There can be no doubt as to the ability of "Mdme. Blondin."

Recreations.

WHENEVER an English manager becomes desperate he resorts to burlesque. This peculiar species of drama seems to be, in an especial sense, of English growth; at all events it harmonises with the English humour. Our public is fond of broad fun—the exaggeration of caricature is its delight. London audiences revel in this kind of enjoyment and run riot in their indulgence of the extravagant and boundless. It is an assertion of intellectual freedom; but too often it degenerates into license. The [illegible] manager, disappointed in the success of his [illegible] piece, having exhausted his repertoire of French pieces, and found music to be of little use in the absence of a new and real original drama, runs for refuge to the burlesque playwright and places on the stage some hasty concoction with the title of some established work which it professes to exhibit in a ludicrous point of view. "The Colleen Bawn" has furnished the subject for DRURY LANE in the hope of attracting tolerable houses for the few remaining nights of the season. The "burlesque extravaganza," as it is called, is entitled "Miss Eily O'Connor," and proceeds from the fertile pen of Mr. Henry J. Byron, the master of the situation at present in this walk of stage-art, who has shown in its manufacture an ambition to excel. The heroine is grotesquely represented by Mr. Atkins, who sings and dances with an excess of animation. Myles Na Coppaleen falls to the lot of Miss Louise Keeley, who also is furnished with many street songs; and Danny Mann is elevated into a picturesque personage by Mr. Roxby. In the cave scene the musical accompaniments are not the least of the funny elements introduced — the heroine being drowned to the air of "Sally, come up," and rescued to the tune of "The Perfect Cure." Myles uses the trapèze in his transit across the water instead of the rope. These instances must serve as examples of the perversions of which the travestie consists; and when we have mentioned that Mrs. Selby distinguishes herself as Mrs. Cregan we must leave the reader to conclude that the burlesque is not only good in itself but acted with more than ordinary effect.

There is another burlesque by the same author at the STRAND. It is named on the bills "A Piece of Absurdity," and is entitled "The Rival Othellos." Two strollers in a country town are introduced as Mr. Brooke and M. Fechter—the former being represented by Mr. J. Clarke and the latter by Mr. Rogers. Mr. Clarke goes in for a decided imitation of Mr. Brooke, and copies his elocutionary peculiarities so exactly that it almost becomes a fair test of the actor's style. Mr. Rogers is less exact, but adopts a costume which reminds us of the nigger rather than the Moriseo type, showing his black legs at full length, and looks remarkably absurd. The whole affair is a mere bagatelle, but it provokes incessant laughter. Of this curious scene the reader will perceive that we have this week given an Engraving in illustration. It will aid him in forming some idea of its humour. Nothing, however, but an actual visit to the little theatre will suffice for those who would enjoy a full impression of the ludicrous.

At the OLYMPIC we have a new piece of a very different character, entitled "Court Cards," in which Mr. Palgrave Simpson from a French drama called "La Frileuse," begins by M. Scribe and finished by M. Augustin de Bercy. The adaptation is in two acts, and filled with incidents which are difficult to explain, but interesting to witness. A certain Dowager Duchess of Altenfels (Mrs. Leigh Murray), who is the guardian of the Princess Amelia of Heldenhausen (Miss Amy Sedgwick), designs the latter for her nephew, Prince Max (Mr. H. Neville), but the young prince really loves Mdlle. Hermine von Waldeck, a maid of honour of the Court (Miss Cottrell). An accident changes this sage plan, by which the Duchess intended to unite two principalities, and gives the Princess to Lieutenant Conrad von Rosenthal (Mr. W. Gordon). The Princess Amelia, having wandered into his tent and partaken the hospitality of his fire, is followed by the enamoured soldier. In his pursuit he first finds himself in Hermine's chamber, and afterwards in the Princess's apartment. The first adventure excites the jealousy of Prince Max and the wrath of the Duchess, but the second leads to his marriage with the exalted object of his passion. There is, also, a stupid baron, Von Babbleberg (Mr. G. Cooke), who compromises the Duchess, and thus gives the young lovers an advantage which they are not slow to turn to account. Out of such perplexities as these an amusing drama has been constructed.

As we had announced, ASTLEY'S reopened on Monday with "The Colleen Bawn," and thus commenced a new season, under the stage management of Mr. Searle, who represents Danny Mann with great effect. Miss Marion Lacy is the heroine. The equestrian performances are first-rate, supported as they are by the talents of MM. Girard, Goldkette, Gouldschmidt, and Bernard; as also by the attractions of Mdlles. Louise Bernard, Goldkette, Jeannette, and Catarino. Mr. Harry Groueste, as clown to the ring, is eminently amusing.

After ten years' absence, M. Robin has reappeared in London, and holds his Soirées Fantastiques at the EGYPTIAN HALL. With a more extensive apparatus than on former occasions, he enacts more wonders than ever. M. Robin seeks to give a scientific air to his inventions, and acknowledges his indebtedness to chemistry, electricity, and pneumatics. He even introduced a direct scientific wonder, consisting of Ruhmkorff's monster coil, on which 22,000 yards of copper wire are rolled, and which emits an electric spark seventeen inches long.

THE SLAVE MARKET, CHARLESTON.

WHILE the Federal power approaches more and more nearly to this city, from which the Secession movement originated, and from which the army of the great expedition is now only sixty miles distant, let us see what is ordinarily passing in the streets of the "Palmetto city," and judge of the panic such neighbours must now produce. The account and the Engraving are from an eyewitness, one who may be thoroughly trusted as an accurate and impartial observer. He says:—"A slave auction in South Carolina differs in some respects from a Virginian negro sale. Whilst in the latter case the disposal of human property is made rather a matter of necessity than of boast, and this offensive feature is hidden as much as possible in out-of-the-way places from the view of all but those who purposely visit the unwholesome precincts, in Charleston, South Carolina, on the contrary, matters are in no way minced; and the barter of the blackamoors takes place close to the Exchange, which also subserves the purposes of a post-office. To a certain extent, the local *Mercury* will have prepared him for the spectacle, when he reads such announcement as the following:—

AN ENTIRE GANG OF NEGROES.

Notice.—Particular attention is called to the sale at auction, this day, at eleven o'clock, by Alonzo J. White, of a very prime gang of negroes, who have been accustomed to the culture of rice. Until within the last five years they cultivated sea-island cotton. These negroes are very orderly and well disciplined, and have been long organised and worked as a gang. Among them are carpenters and a cooper.

This gang we sketched at the time, and before introducing it to notice should premise that the matter is not so easy as might seem to be the case at first sight. The dread of the name of abolition and everything savouring of the same is so great that the population have more or less the character of spies. The stranger notices that his steps are watched with the suspicion characteristic of sentinelled fortresses. If, therefore, in wandering through the purlieus of this great stronghold of slavery you add to your equivocal appearance as a foreigner the yet more aggravating circumstance of carrying a pencil in your hand, you are looked upon with the covert hostility with which a gentleman brandishing a pistol or stiletto in open daylight would be regarded elsewhere. Without stopping to inquire whether there is danger to be apprehended from the lead—true Cumberland—with which our weapon is loading, or which makes the most damaging puncture, be it of poniard or pencil, we shall proceed to describe briefly the scene of the auction. The scene is laid close to the "north side of the Exchange," as the advertisements have it, which announce the terms as well as the locality—viz., "Conditions, one-third cash; balance in one, two, and three years, with mortgage of the property, and approved personal security; interest payable semi-annually, &c."

In the immediate background, through the narrow vista afforded by the opening in the "Atlantic Wharf," you notice a cotton-laden ship, probably waiting till the tide is sufficiently up to waft its freight across the bar seawards; yet nearer, and forming a good grey background, on which the swarthy gang are relieved in dark, is a ramshackled old smith's forge, with an inscription to the effect that "spars, blocks, pumps," &c., are to be had there. Amongst the foreground accessories the palmetto or fan-palm, which gives its name to the State of South Carolina, is conspicuous. It is rather a fastidious tree, requiring tropical heat and the sea air to flourish properly (it will be recollected that the cane presented to the notorious Mr. Preston Brooks for striking an undefended senator was a twig plucked from this species of tree). On a stouter pole is placed the red flag striped with white, upon which the auction is announced as taking place. This flagstaff is fixed into two old circular pieces of plaster. In close proximity are two auction-tables to hold the members of the gang. A mother clasps her piccaninny (as the negroes call their children) whilst the dealer takes the bids from the group of dealers who wander from the different States for the purpose of such investments. It has been remarked that negroes take a secret pride in fetching high prices, and will jeer a companion in slavery who is estimated at a low calibre. This is doubtless as true as hundreds of other anomalous features, visible or otherwise, which place the keen observer frequently in the position in which Reynolds has depicted the great Garrick—between Tragedy and Comedy. We laugh when we see the self-satisfied air of the negro turning up his flattened nose at a poor white man and contemptuously nicknaming him "buckraw," or when a State-born negro pities the recently-imported black and dubs him "poor Africanian;" but the smile is turned at once into one of pity when we see them paraded like a flock of sheep whose hair is not shorn from the top of their head merely because that kind of wool is not marketable. Look at yonder brawny fellow standing in the midst! he seems as if there was the stuff of an ebony Spartacus about him. What tales yonder fellow, who seems a little downcast, and is cheered by his companion, could tell of dreary labour in cotton-fields or of the paddy he worked at on Combahee River! That negro-driver astride on horse-back, with his umbrella in one hand and his whip in the other, seems no very lenient taskmaster.

What must these men say and think when they learn that a thousand free negroes are landed within seventy miles, and that the slaves in the neighbourhood of Beaufort are fast rushing to join their sable brethren?

A COMING MATCH.—THE HARE AND HOUNDS AT FULL SPEED.

Epsom Downs are both splendid places for the sports. Should any of our readers not have witnessed this interesting match, we think they cannot do better during the Christmas holidays than take a trip to either of these places when the "hounds are out." Unmolested or private courting, however,

have done. A betrothal was legal to secure a beautiful lady—that's the way the play went—all the difference! To-day—well, open a large envelope in the left hand coat-pocket, and you'll find the settlement of the Guard's Ball. Protect you."

"Sir, why don't you call for

MATCH COURSING.

Philosophy!
Wilt thou say that Life is short—
That Wisdom loves not hunters' sport,
But Virtue's golden fruitage rather,
Hopes in cloister'd cells to gather?
Gallant greyhounds! tell her, here
Trusty faith and love sincere—
Here do grace and zeal abide,
And humbly keep their master's side.
BARNARD.

THE fine sport f coursing may be truly distinguished as "old English;" it is far more ancient than horse-racing, and we may safely say in no country is the sport carried to such perfection as in England at the present day. The English greyhound, the dog used in the sport, is a perfect model of graceful action, of speed in running, and is altogether by far the finest of any breed of dogs, ancient or modern. The Engravings with this article represent what is called "Match Coursing," on Epsom Downs. No. 1 represents the Hare Finders; and the Slipper, who looses the Hare from the slip, when the judge gives the word "Go." No. 2 the Hare and Dogs at full speed. Mr. Blaine, in his "Encyclopædia of Rural Sports," says—"Match Coursing, it must be confessed by all, offers a vivid picture. Its practice throughout is social and animating in the extreme; and, if its excitements are more transitory than those of the fox chase, they are certainly greater while they last, and, moreover, are usually repeated several times during the same day."

Match coursing may be seen at many localities in the neighbourhood of London. Hampton Court Park and Epsom Downs are both splendid places for the sport. Should any of our readers not have witnessed this interesting sight, we think they cannot do better during the Christmas holidays than take a trip to either of these places when the "hounds are out." Unmatched or private coursing, however, we think possesses greater attraction, and more sport; since it is not attended with difficulties of awards, sometimes very displeasing to individuals, nor with the mortification of seeing a favourite dog beaten in public. With respect to the best sort of greyhound coursers should breed, there is a contrariety of opinions, as may be seen from the variety of size of the dog at coursing matches. We have seen, however, at Hampton Court all the south small-bred greyhounds beaten by two Lancashire dogs not two years old.

A COURSING MATCH.—THE HARE DISCOVERED.

A COURSING MATCH.—THE HARE AND HOUNDS AT FULL SPEED.

CHESSPLAYING EXTRAORDINARY.—On Saturday last Herr Paulsen, the distinguished chessplayer, finished at Manchester the task of playing at one time ten games of chess with players of local reputation. Herr Paulsen did his work solely from memory, and without looking at the boards; and what seems to make the task more onerous is, that the games had been adjourned from the previous day, and the twenty-second move in each instance was given by Herr Paulsen solely from recollection. One game was drawn previous to the Saturday's play, one was won, and one player was unable to attend, so that seven games were to be played out. Of the ten only one was lost by Herr Paulsen, one was not played out, three were drawn, and five won.

QUITE AN AMUSING INCIDENT occurred at one of the Washington theatres a short time since. A brigand was trying to abduct a beautiful lady—that's the way the play went—and she struggling to free herself, when a burly volunteer in the pit cried out, *"Sis, why don't you call for the sergeant of the guard? He'll protect you."*

[Dec. 7, 1861.

Family Column.

THE BEST MODE OF FRYING FISH.—One great point is to prepare it properly. Take, for instance, a sole, lay it on a cloth, wipe it thoroughly dry on both sides, then dredge it with flour, beat up an egg and lay it on with a brush, strewing on it finely-grated bread or biscuit crumbs; have the fat so boiling hot that all the hissing and bubbling must have subsided before the fish is put in, and let the quantity not be stinted, or the fish when taken out will be greasy. The fryingpan must be put upon a clear cinder fire, and not left for a moment until the fish is done, at a moderate rate, neither too quick nor too slow, and when done lay it upon a cloth or writing-paper to drain off the fat. Hog's lard and butter are the materials most generally used, as are also the drippings from roast meat; for a great prejudice exists in England against frying with oil, arising, no doubt, partly from the expense as well as dislike, although it is more delicate than any fatty substance that can be employed for that purpose. Throughout the southern countries of Europe nothing else is ever used in the frying of either fish or meat of any kind, and dishes thus dressed ever appear superior on the foreign tables to those of our own. The oil, if skimmed when done with, may be employed again until entirely used; and lard, if poured into cold water when melted, will harden on the surface. The largeness of the quantity, therefore, does not occasion additional cost; and even should meat be fried in it after fish it will occasion no unpleasant flavour.

A NEW LOCK is in course of manufacture at Wolverhampton based upon the permutation principle. It is the invention of Count Kersolon, of Paris, and by him communicated to Mr. Edward Loysel, civil engineer, of Cannon-street, London, who is better known as the patentee of a coffee-percolator on the hydrostatic principle. Although it is termed a keyless lock, it has as many keys as there are combinations, the back parts being locks, and the front parts the keys, which cannot be removed. Every change made in the concentric ring answers the same purpose as keys; so that a lock which has seven permutations, or 5040 combinations, has 5040 keys; and so it is termed a keyless lock, with, as above, 5040 or any number of keys. It has 244,140,125 combinations, to open all of which would take a man, supposing he could live so long, some 130 years! The specimen we have seen has six concentric cylinders, upon the projecting or outer edge of each of which are twenty-five of the twenty-six letters of the alphabet, and it is only when these letters are brought into a certain predetermined arrangement that the other parts of the lock can be so worked as to admit of the bolt being drawn for the purpose of shutting or opening the article to which the lock is applied. It is absolutely necessary, as in the old "letter-padlock," to know the proper arrangement or combination of letters before the lock can be opened. In order to prevent the particular combination of letters from being discovered by "feeling" the parts, as is sometimes the case, the inner edges of the movable concentric cylinders are toothed or serrated so as to deceive any person who may attempt to tamper with the lock. In the event of the particular combination of letters not being discovered by the person desirous of opening the lock, the exhausting of all the variations which are in that case necessary to the success of the operation would require an expenditure of the time we have mentioned, supposing the operator to make ten changes a minute, and to manipulate ten hours on every working day. It is intended to place these locks upon some iron safes that are also being made in Wolverhampton for exhibition at the forthcoming "World's Fair." In one of the safes it is proposed to place the sum of £500, which is to fall to the lot of the person who may be fortunate enough to effect an opening into the safe. The production of the lock for the market is in the hands of Mr. Aubin, the inventor of "The Trophy of Lock Ingenuity," which was exhibited in the Hyde Park Palace, and subsequently purchased by Mr. Hobbs. Mr. Aubin, then a working locksmith, is now the proprietor of works of considerable magnitude in Wolverhampton, where he employs machinery (second only to Hobbs), invented by himself, and of equal delicacy with that displayed in the model which made his name celebrated. His ingenuity is being further displayed in the designing and constructing of machinery adapted to the manufacture of the lock we have just described. Mr. Aubin's practical experience is being brought to bear in making such improvements upon the Count's lock as are required to increase the probability of its success in a financial aspect. The principle of the lock may be applied to every variety of this description of fastening, and when used upon a travelling-bag is a vast improvement upon locks that require keys to open them, and is at the same time a great ornament.

To the Editor of the PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER.

SIR,—I promised to furnish your amateur readers with a few hints on the culture of the pompone in open borders; also with a list of a few of the best varieties, that seldom fail to bloom out of doors.

Dig or fork up your borders eighteen inches deep, with a good dressing of rotten manure. If leaf mould can easily be obtained a good mixture of it with the rotten dung will add much to the growth of the plant, as the chrysanthemum is very fond of leaf mould. Take off suckers early in the spring, when six inches long, with a little root to each. Plant them singly a foot to eighteen inches apart. If the weather is dry when planting, give a little water, but not too much, or they will damp off. When well rooted and grown to the length of eight inches, pinch out the crown to cause them to grow bushy. Water freely night and morning in hot dry weather, and spread a thin coating of rotten manure over the surface in August to prevent the sun from destroying the top fibres. It will likewise tend to keep a fine healthy foliage through the summer if a little liquid manure be given three times a week when they show their flower-buds. This will excite the plants, and cause them to bloom earlier and better. If you wish to grow a few in pots, take off cuttings in June, put them into small pots, when rooted take off the crown and repot in your blooming (five-inch) pot. The compost should be one-third rotten dung and two-thirds light loam. Give plenty of water, and occasionally liquid manure, up to the time of blooming. If you have not time to attend to the watering in the hot weather, plunge them three-parts down in the border in a sunny place. Put a tile at the bottom to prevent them rooting out at the drainage-hole. Sprinkle the foliage every night in dry weather. Remove them into a sheltered place the first week in October, to guard against frost.

The following varieties are the most useful for all purposes:—

White.—Bijou de la Horticulta, Argentine, Modele, Mrs. Talfourd.

Pink and Rose.—Helene, Salomon, Ranunculs, Adonis, Duruflet, Florence, Mdme. Roussilon.

Yellow.—Berrot, Yellow cedo nulli, General Canrobert, Gerb d'or, Drin drin.

Red.—Bob, Brilliant.

Red and Brown.—Dr. Bois Duval, Saint Thaias, Mustapha.

Chestnut and Orange.—Aroie Boreale, Polycarp.

Bronze and Orange.—Alexander Pell, Miss Julia, Francis I., Lilliputian.

White and Brown.—Cedo Nulli, Ninon, Giraldæ.

S. BROOME, Temple-gardens.

The Volunteers.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE QUEEN'S WESTMINSTERS.—On Saturday last, in Westminster Hall, were distributed the prizes which have been contended for by the members of the Queen's (Westminster) during the past summer at their shooting-ground at Wormwood Scrubbs. A numerous and distinguished company assembled on the steps at the upper end of the hall to witness the ceremony, among whom were the Duchess of Sutherland, the Earl of Carlisle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Gladstone, Mr. Howard, M.P., Lord Ranelagh, Lord Radstock, the Dean of Westminster (Chaplain of the Corps), Lord Albert Gower, Mr. Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. and Lady Vernon. On a long table placed across the hall were spread the prizes, which amounted in value to close upon £800, and a magnificent show they made. Besides numerous silver cups and tankards, of all sizes and designs, and rifles of all patterns, from the ordinary Enfield to the costliest arms, there was a beautiful bronze "Mercury," after John of Bologna, valued at £20, a silver challenge bugle, a silver tea and coffee service valued at 15 guineas, a handsome silver épergne, an ormoulu timepiece, field-glasses, purses ranging in value from £15 to £5, besides prizes of minor value. The prizes were distributed by Countess Grosvenor, the wife of the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the corps. The regiment, which is now eighteen companies strong, was formed in three sides of a square, the winners being drawn up in a line two deep in front of the dais.

THE INNS OF COURT RIFLE CORPS, numbering 430 effective members, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Brewster, proceeded by special train from the Waterloo terminus to Richmond last Saturday. About one o'clock the corps took up a position on the plateau. On Colonel M'Murdo arriving he was received with the customary military honours. After the clothing, arms, and accoutrements had been inspected, the corps marched past in slow and quick time, and went through the battalion movements in a steady and soldierlike manner. Subsequently the light infantry and rifle evolutions, as well as the extension of line, throwing out of skirmishers in front and on both flanks, and rallying into square, were performed with great rapidity. On again forming line, Colonel M'Murdo expressed himself in terms of satisfaction at the great efficiency and steadiness of the corps, and a general salute terminated the proceedings. The corps then returned to London by special train. In the evening a grand banquet took place in the hall, Lincoln's Inn, which the Inspector-General honoured with his presence. Covers were laid for 350.

THE SURREY ENGINEERS.—On Monday night a public meeting of the supporters of this corps was held—Mr. A. H. Layard, M.P., in the chair. Mr. John Locke, M.P., explained the special value of a volunteer corps of engineers, and the peculiar advantages possessed for the formation of one in Southwark, Bermondsey, and Rotherhithe, where so many skilled and ingenious mechanics are resident. He moved the first resolution, to the effect that the meeting pledged itself to support the Surrey Engineers. It was seconded by Captain Taylor, and unanimously carried. The second resolution, that a subscription should be opened for carrying out the formation of the corps, was moved by the Rev. Hugh Allen, D.D. It was seconded by Lieutenant Smith, and adopted. Mr. Layard then said that he should have been sorry if the Government had originated the volunteer movement. If it had, there might have been some suspicion; but when the Government saw the feeling that existed throughout the kingdom, it rendered, and still continues, every assistance to the volunteers. He understood that out of this corps it was contemplated to raise a fire brigade. He rarely ever read a newspaper headed "Alarming or Great Fire" but, upon reading, he found that invariably it occurred in Lambeth or Southwark; and during the present year they had had melancholy proof of this. Now, he thought the Engineer Corps would not have to oppose the enemy in Dover-road, but then they could defend their neighbours, and stop the progress of, perhaps, as great an enemy as the French—viz., fire. Several gentlemen having given in their names as subscribers to the fund, Mr. Layard said he should be glad to add his to the number. Mr. Scovell, the late candidate for Southwark, and several other gentlemen, having contributed, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE BRISTOL VOLUNTEERS mustered in strong force in the Exchange on Saturday last to witness the presentation of a testimonial to Sergeant Bingham, for the manner in which he sustained the credit of the corps at the Wimbledon meeting in July last, when, although he did not succeed in carrying off the Queen's prize, he went so near it that he seemed to have had the honour almost in his grasp. The testimonial was presented by Colonel Bush.

HER MAJESTY INSPECTED THE ETON COLLEGE VOLUNTEERS in the Home Park, Windsor, on Friday week. Her Majesty was received with a Royal salute. The companies then marched past, and went through several manœuvres, which were concluded by an advance in parade order and a Royal salute. Luncheon was served to the volunteers immediately after in the conservatory of the castle.

BARRACKS FOR THE BRADFORD VOLUNTEERS.—Spacious and commodious volunteer barracks, the first erected in the United Kingdom, have just been opened at Bradford. They consist of a drillroom 97ft. long by 60 broad, a gymnasium 44ft. by 20, an armoury 44ft. by 20, officers', orderly, and committee rooms, each 20ft. by 15, a room for cleaning and repairing arms, and a storeroom. A drill-sergeant's house and a stable form part of the buildings, which stand in the midst of a drillground of about an acre and a half in extent. The whole cost is about £2000—a sum which has been partly raised by subscription and partly by the contributions to a bazaar got up by the ladies of Bradford.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RIFLES.—The contest for the Prince of Wales's cup commenced last week amongst the members of the Cambridge University Rifle Corps with a view to the selection of six gentlemen as final competitors. The six best shots in the trial matches met upon the ground on Monday for the final contest. The Prince of Wales was present. There were ten shots at each distance, with Enfield rifles, and it was just upon dusk before Mr. Ross (champion of Scotland and ex-champion of England) was declared the winner; and the assemblage dispersed amid enthusiastic cheers for the Prince and Mr. Ross.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE 19TH MIDDLESEX.—On Monday evening the prizes for the best shooting in the competition of this fine corps were distributed in Westminster Hall to the successful candidates by the Right Hon. the Earl De Grey and Ripon, Under Secretary of State for War. Many ladies and gentlemen were present as spectators. The appearance of the ranks and behaviour of the men were thoroughly soldierlike, and creditable both to themselves and to their officers. It will be remembered that this corps, which now amounts to an entire battalion of 750 men, in ten companies, originated with that of the Working Men's College in Great Ormond-street, formed and commanded by Mr. Thomas Hughes, the popular author of "Tom Brown." He, as the senior Captain, assisted the commanding officer of the whole corps, who is Colonel Bathurst, to conduct the proceedings on this occasion.

THE TRINITY BALL AT CAMBRIDGE.—This fashionable and festive réunion—a fit successor to the far-famed Bachelors' Ball of former days—came off with unusual éclat on Monday night, owing to the fact that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales honoured it with his presence. The ball is given annually by certain of the gallant outgoing Bachelors of Trinity, and, his Royal Highness's name being "on the boards" of the college, he graciously accepted the invitation of the committee of management. The ball was held, as usual, at the Lion Hotel; and that, owing to the well-earned reputation of the Messrs. Moyes, is sufficient to make it patent that the arrangements for the reception and enjoyment of the guests were unexceptionable so far as they fell within their sphere of action. The decorations were intrusted to Mr. Bulstrode, of Cambridge, and were exceedingly chaste. The band engaged was that of Messrs. Coote and Tinney. The company began to arrive shortly after ten o'clock, and numbered in all about 300. His Royal Highness opened the ball with Lady Agneta Yorke, and of course the "fair ladye" and her Royal partner were the cynosure of all eyes as they gracefully led the dance. At twelve o'clock the Royal party retired to supper, the Prince leading the Countess of Hardwicke. His Royal Highness and his company returned to the ballroom about one, and he and his suite remained till past four; but it was past five—and, indeed, the bells of St. Mary's were close upon the chimes of six—before "the music of the merry twinkling feet" had ceased within the precincts of "The Lion."—On Tuesday there was a grand university steeplechase in the neighbourhood of Caxton, at which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was present.

Law and Police.

THE LATE FATAL ACCIDENTS ON THE BRIGHTON AND HAMPSTEAD JUNCTION RAILWAYS.—An action arising out of the Brighton Railway accident in August last was tried in the Court of Common Pleas on Saturday last. The plaintiff, Mr. O'Hara, was a billiard-marker in Brighton, and was coming up to London by the train to which the accident happened. The plaintiff was not so hurt but that he was able to walk back to his house in Brighton; but he was severely shaken, and his plea was that since the accident he "had never been his own man again." He claimed damages to the amount of £300. The company paid £50 into court as a sufficient sum to compensate for the injuries the plaintiff had sustained, and attempted to show that the illness to which he was now subject was caused by his own irregular habits rather than by the railway accident. They did not succeed, however, in impressing that conviction on the jury, who returned a verdict awarding the plaintiff £150 beyond the £50 paid into court. In another case a widow, named Gardner, obtained £500 damages for the death of her husband at the same accident. At the Sheriff's Court, Red Lion-square, last week, two actions were brought against the North London Railway Company to recover damages for injuries received in the fearful accident which took place on the Hampstead Junction Railway in September last. The first was that of Mrs. Drake, a widow residing at Stepney, a shirtmaker, earning at the time of the accident 9s. a week. She complained of internal injuries, and that her eyesight had been affected, and she was unable to work at her business. The jury found a verdict for £200 damages. The other action was brought by Jane Drake, daughter of the plaintiff in the other action, but the proceedings were withdrawn on a sum of £10 being paid by the company.

THE CONDEMNED MURDERERS. — The prisoner, George Inkpen, who was convicted on Thursday week of the murder of his sweetheart under very peculiar circumstances, there being an attempt at self-murder by both, by drowning in the Surrey Canal, was removed on Saturday last to Maidstone Gaol, where he will remain until the Government decides what course is to be taken with regard to him. He was conveyed to Maidstone in the charge of two of the warders of Newgate, and during the journey he frequently expressed the deepest sorrow for the melancholy occurrence, and declared that he was in such a state of mind at the time that he hardly knew what occurred, and that, after he had himself escaped from drowning, it was some time before he was conscious of the death of his unhappy companion. As regards the other prisoner, the wretched boy Richard Reeve, there appears, from communications that have already taken place between the officials of the gaol and the authorities of the Home Office, to be considerable difficulty in arriving at a conclusion as to what should be done in such an extraordinary case.

WRECKING IN THE THAMES.—A crime that has been unusual in our annals of late was brought to trial last week. Some boatmen at the mouth of the Thames were charged with wrecking a ship laden with tallow that had gone ashore on the Middle Swin Sand. The defence set up was that the ship was abandoned by her crew, and the cargo had therefore become the prize of the first comer. The magistrates looked at the matter in a very different light, and fined the prisoners £100 each man. It is said the value of the property stolen was about £10,000.

THE GREAT SILK ROBBERY.—At the Thames Police Court, on Tuesday, Mr. Woolrych recommenced the inquiry relating to the circumstances of the robbery of ten bales of China raw silk on the 10th of March last. Two of the prisoners, James Hunter, a publican, formerly landlord of the Red Deer public-house in Cambridge Heath-road, and Thomas Smith, a carman, of Mile-end New Town, who had been out on bail, surrendered. James Gillett, marine-store dealer, of Mile-end Old Town, and Edwin Turnbull, a lighterman, were brought from the House of Correction, and all four were arraigned in the felons' dock to answer the charge of stealing and receiving the silk. Peter Debock, the convict who was found guilty and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment in June last, was again brought up in custody of a warder of a House of Correction. He has already given evidence three times against the prisoners, and in his cross-examinations by Mr. Leach, of Derby, and Mr. Lewis, junior, of Ely-place, he has proved himself to be a consummate villain. Mr. George Hilton, superintendent of the borough police, Derby, was examined at great length, relating to the visit of Hunter, Debock, Barker, and Agg to Derby, on the 19th of March last, the seizure of the stolen silk in the mill of a silk-throwster, named John Newton, at Derby, and interviews with Agg at the Crown public-house, opposite Sadler's Wells Theatre, and Hunter at the Red Deer, their absconding, and other particulars. Hunter surrendered a month ago, and Turnbull, Smith, and Gillett were subsequently apprehended. After a lengthened investigation, the magistrate decided upon committing the prisoners for trial. They will be brought up again on Tuesday next, when the depositions will be read over. Mr. Woolrych refused bail for Hunter. Mr. Nicholson, solicitor, of Lime-street, was in attendance to watch the case on behalf of the firm of Grey and Co., lightermen and bargeowners, from whose barge, the Dorville, the ten bales of silk are alleged to have been stolen. Thomas Turnbull, the brother of one of the prisoners, and a well-known thief, is still at large. Agg, the late landlord of the Crown, for whose apprehension a reward has been offered by the St. Katharine Dock Company, is out of the country.

A WOMAN BEWITCHED.—Elizabeth Armand, a dirty little woman, was charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt, on Tuesday, at the Marlborough-street Police Court, with violently assaulting Mrs. Susan Eagle under the following circumstances:—The complainant, the wife of a birdshop-keeper, 40, Great St. Andrew-street, said that on the previous night the prisoner came into the shop and abused and struck her several times about the head with her fist and tore out a quantity of her hair. It was the third time she had so treated her. Mary Gardner was witness to the prisoner's assault. Prisoner: The complainant's husband has bewitched me. He has been murdering all of us for some time while in our beds. Policeman 318 A said the prisoner, both last night and this morning, told him that Mr. Eagle had bewitched her and set a spell on her. Prisoner: He has set a spell on me. I am enraged to madness, and can't live. I am bewitched. I live in Lambeth. Mr. Tyrwhitt: You will have to find bail. Whether you are crazed or not, I cannot tell, but your conduct is dangerous. The prisoner, who is a strange-looking woman, was then ordered to find one bail in £5.

A BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE CASE, which involved some points of humour, was tried in the Court of Exchequer on Monday. A widow of forty was courted by an old man who went on crutches, though, with commendable gallantry, he only used one stick when he went a-courting. There was no denying the promise, nor his receding from it; and, after both parties had sufficiently exposed their folly, the counsel for the defendant offered £150, which the widow's friends cheerfully accepted.

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AT ALDERSHOTT.—There is now every prospect of Troop Sergeant-Major Kennedy, who was shot by a soldier for turning him out of some private theatricals, recovering from the wound. Nicholson was brought up on remand before the magistrates on Monday, but his victim, not being quite out of danger, did not attend; consequently another remand took place.

ANOTHER CAB OUTRAGE.—Two men—a cabman and a miller—were charged at Wakefield on Monday with a most barbarous assault on a woman. The woman was riding in a cab on the night of Thursday week with one of the prisoners from Leeds to Churnell, and this man and the cabman both endeavoured to assault her, but failing in their purpose they threw her into a canal. She was rescued with difficulty. There was a great deal of contradiction in her story, but the prisoners were committed for trial.

Accidents, Inquests, Etc.

ANOTHER TRADE OUTRAGE has, unhappily, been committed at Sheffield. On Sunday morning a man employed at a crinoline-manufacturer's went to the factory and discovered that an attempt had been made to blow it up. A large milk-can, which had been filled with powder, and had a fuse attached, was discovered in the cellar. The building was considerably damaged; but, fortunately, no human being sustained any injury. Sarah O'Rourke, one of the victims of the infernal outrage in Acorn-street, died on Monday. Mrs. Wastnidge, the other sufferer, is progressing favourably, being a young and very strong woman. An inquest on view of the body of Sarah O'Rourke was opened by Mr. Webster, the deputy coroner, on the evening of her death. The prisoner Thompson, who has been apprehended on the charge of committing this atrocious outrage, was identified by Mrs. Wastnidge, who saw him and another man running away after the canister of gunpowder was thrown, and who had a previous acquaintance with him. He had a few days before used threatening expressions to her. A special sermon was preached on Sunday by the Rev. Brooke Herford, Unitarian minister, to a vast assemblage of working men, in the Temperance Hall. The rev. gentleman, who is a staunch supporter of unions, strongly denounced these crimes, and called upon the working men of Sheffield to leave no means untried until the perpetrators of them were rooted out.

THE MURDER NEAR CARLISLE.—The inquest on the body of the old woman who kept the crossing on the Carlisle Railway was reopened on Monday, but no new light was thrown on the case. The inquest was adjourned. The police imagine they have found some slight clue to the murderer in a pair of trousers much stained with blood that were found tied up in a bundle in the neighbourhood of the place.

A TERRIBLE FIRE has broken out in Antwerp. It broke out on Monday, and up to the time of our going to press had not been extinguished. The Napoleon Docks were first the prey of the flames, which completely burned down the Belgian sugar-refinery and the St. Felix bonding warehouses. An enormous amount of property has been destroyed.

TWO MEN MURDERED AT SEA.—The crew of an American ship were seized at Cardiff on Tuesday for murdering the mate of the vessel and another man, who acted as interpreter. The mate, it appears, had excited the hatred of the men by his violent conduct towards them, and on the 12th of last month they fell upon him and murdered him. The interpreter is supposed to have been thrown overboard, as he has never been seen since the time of the attack on the mate. The crew also attacked the second mate and wounded him severely. The captain was not touched by them. There are eight men of the crew, composed of Italians, Americans, Germans, and Austrians. They are in custody, and will be handed over to the American authorities.

A LUNATIC ASYLUM BURNT DOWN.—A sad calamity occurred near Reigate on Saturday last, in the burning down of a private lunatic asylum, where there were seven patients. Two of these are missing; the fate of one is too certain, as his charred remains were discovered in the ruins; it is supposed the other, in the excitement of the scene, made his escape. There is no clue at present to the origin of the fire.

ROBBERY OF £450.—A cotton-spinner from Oldham was robbed yesterday week in Liverpool of £450 in bank-notes and cheques. A disreputable woman, who was seen speaking to him in a public-house, and at the Lime-street station, is in custody on the charge, and has been examined before the local magistrates and remanded.

GAROTTE ROBBERY OF £111.—Mr. Robert Turnbull, commercial traveller, was going towards his home through a narrow and dimly-lighted lane in Newcastle on Thursday week, when a man rushed upon him, seized him by the throat, and threw him down. Another person then rifled his pockets of the sum of £111, consisting of £20 in gold and the rest in notes. The fellows, having effected their object, ran off. Mr. Turnbull, as soon as he was able, gave information of the robbery to the police, who will probably succeed in bringing the ruffians to justice.

ANOTHER DESTRUCTIVE EXPLOSION OF PARAFFIN OIL.—On Monday night an alarming explosion of paraffin oil occurred in the oil and Italian shop of Mr. Masters, Great College-street. In the evening, as a cask of the oil was being removed from a van in the street to a room behind the shop, a candle held by a boy suddenly ignited the vapour of the oil, producing an instantaneous explosion, so violent as to break the casks and blow out a large window, the burning oil setting fire to the clothes of the man and the boy. The flames spread rapidly through the building. It was completely gutted, and the adjoining premises were more or less injured before the fire could be extinguished. The injured man and boy were so much burnt that they had to be removed to the University College Hospital.

SHIPWRECK IN THE CHANNEL AND LOSS OF THREE LIVES.—The schooner Sea Queen, Captain Lewis, bound from Cardiff to Chester with a cargo of railway iron, has been totally wrecked at Rhosnagyn, in Carnarvon Bay. Three of the crew were drowned.

FATAL COLLISION IN THE ST. GEORGE'S CHANNEL.—The Waterford Company's steam-ship Zephyr, which arrived at Waterford yesterday week, came in collision off Puffin Island with a French steamer, Comtese de Frigile Frigeville, from Nantes, for Liverpool. The French ship immediately sank. The captain, mate, and eight of the crew were lost; six were saved. The Zephyr sustained no injury.

SUICIDE.—INTERESTING TO SURGEONS.—An inquest was held at Manchester last week upon the body of a young man named Robert Turner, who had committed suicide by shooting himself, and whom the jury pronounced "insane" when he committed the rash act. The strange part of the story is that there were no external marks of violence visible on the body. The pistol was not loaded with ball; but, after placing the powder in the weapon, the deceased inserted into the muzzle the pistol-key, which had a loop at one end. The discharge of the powder burnt the clothes covering the heart, but the missile only made a slight mark on the flesh, without breaking the skin. Dr. J. D. Ward was sent for and went immediately after the occurrence, but the man was dead before he arrived. A post-mortem examination by Dr. Ward showed that, though the skin was not broken, the walls of the chest were perforated between the fifth and sixth ribs; and although the pericardium, or bag containing the heart, was intact, the left ventricle of the heart itself was ruptured, and the pericardium filled with blood.

DOUBLE MURDER IN PARIS.—A daring murder was committed last week at a small eating-house, 9, Rue St. Placide, Faubourg St. Germain. The house belongs to a brigadier in the police force, and the business was principally managed by his wife, assisted by her niece, a little girl eleven years old. In the afternoon a nephew of the brigadier watched an opportunity when he was out, cut the throats of the woman and her niece, and made off with the sum of 1500f. (£60), which he knew the family had lately received from the country. The husband, on returning to the house after a short absence, found nobody in the front shop, but on going into the kitchen he stumbled over the bodies of his wife and her niece, both quite dead. He at once suspected his nephew, and the latter was arrested at his lodgings with the 1500f. upon him. He had taken the precaution to change his clothes, but had not washed his hands, which were red with the blood of his victims.

HORSEFLESH BANQUET.—At Algiers, a few days back, a considerable number of high public functionaries, superior military officers, judges, and clergy, partook, in the saloon of the theatre, of a grand banquet, the greater part of the dishes of which were composed of horse and ass flesh. The object in getting up the feast was to combat the popular prejudice against such food. The different dishes were dressed in the French style, and declared excellent. One of them consisted of a young ass roasted whole. After dinner a speech was made by M. Decroix, veterinary surgeon, who maintained that horseflesh is very nutritious, and that the general adoption of it as an article of food would present many advantages.

Mr. Howitt is writing a history of spiritualism, which he will entitle "Gleanings in the Cornfields of Spiritualism."

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NOTICE.—To show the importance of this publication, the following letter received from a lady will be read with interest:—49, Marine View, Ramsgate, July 13, 1860.—Gentlemen, sincere thanks for your precious book. My family will have occasion to pray for your happiness. For years we have despaired until directed to your announcement. I procured the Book, when, conceive my feelings at discovering an advertisement wanting a claimant to Four Thousand Pounds' worth of property left by my late husband's uncle. The solicitors have acknowledged our claim, and you shall shortly hear further from your ever-grateful servant, &c.—Signed, MARIA BAXTER.

Many of such letters we could publish, if space would permit.

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